

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

24 Feb 2016 \$2 (incl VAT)

*Congratulations to Woman of the Month, Mrs Lily Vainerere-Patia. Featured here wearing beautiful black pearl jewellery from Goldmine.*

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POLITICAL ROUND UP

# Campaigning, coalitions, corruption investigations and taxes

**D**uring Prime Minister Henry Puna's Radio Cook Islands broadcast on Friday 19 February he took the unusual stance of rebutting a Herald article. Puna denied last week's Herald report his six day \$70,000 northern group tour of duty was a masked trip to campaign for the 10 March Island Council elections. Leaving on Monday 29 February his entourage includes Minister Mark Brown, and the other three Northern group Members of Parliament. The cost includes the \$45,000 Air Rarotonga charter, travelling expenses and cash gifts. Each MP will be endorsing their Mayoralty candidate to stand under the Cook Islands Party banner. Fishing clubs will be receiving \$10,000 each and there will be the handover of the China donated agriculture machinery. Mark Brown will be preaching the PM's deep sea mining prosperity message we are going to be the richest people in the World. Deny it as much as he likes, the council elections have been timed to coincide with Puna's continued strategy of the political evangelising of the outer islands. Its little wonder the PM is coveting a corporate jet, the outer islands with 14 constituencies is his political parish all funded by the Rarotonga taxpayers.

**Deputy Prime Minister** Teariki Heather has already travelled to Aitutaki to oversee the endorsement of the current Mayor John Baxter as the CIP candidate. A meeting was held at Amuri MP Toa Isamaela's residence to rally supporters.

**It looks like** the Aitutaki Mayoralty is going to be hotly contested. At a meeting on Monday at Araura an enthusiastic gathering of Demo and One Cook Islands supporters reaffirmed their unity and after having a letter received from the

Demo leader William Smiley Heather to MP Teina Bishop read out to the gathering much excitement was in the midst and the Deputy Mayor for the last ten years Poo Bishop was endorsed as the Demo/OCI Mayoral candidate nominated by Demo stalwart Savage Lockington. Let's hope this time the erratic Demos are synergised; last time around they fielded two candidates splitting a huge margin and handing the Mayoralty to John Baxter.

**To cement the** political bond between the Demos and the OCI, after a series of robust meetings over the last three weeks the Opposition caucus has reconfirmed William Smiley Heather as the leader with Teina Bishop being offered the Deputy leader position. According to the OCI Executive a series of meetings will be held on Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mauke to get support for acceptance.

**Media reports the** Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is involved in investigating allegations of corruption including DPM Teariki Heather's involvement with the purchasing and ownership of a Bobcat machine are being questioned by Cabinet if FIU head Bob Williams has the authority to conduct such exercises. Under the FIU's recently amended Act FIU has new wide ranging powers now being regretted by senior CIP Members of Parliament. With limited resources the Police Commissioner Maara Tetava said



Teariki Heather - Hanging onto his position because PM lacks the courage.

*continued next page*

FIU request for assistance has justified in two personnel from New Zealand being attached to FIU for six months. FIU's powers are related to their authority in gathering information that is then forwarded to the police for criminal investigation.

**A possible diplomatic** incident is brewing because the Peoples Republic of China Embassy in New Zealand is demanding answers from the PM Henry Puna why the FIU was able to enter the fortified town premises of the China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) and remove documents and equipment. The FIU are investigating allegations the DPM Heather had sought funds for his 2014 election expenses from CCECC who awarded his company T&M Heather Ltd a \$300,000 subcontract that had the campaign donation absorbed within it. In exchange it is alleged Heather promised CCECC some Te Mato Vai Stage Two contracts. The Herald understands two more complaints of alleged corruption against the DPM are in the pipeline to be filed with the FIU.

**The DPM Teariki** Heather is about to be confronted with the allegation he has dipping his sticky fingers into the \$1m appropriation for the Atiu airport up grade. When the Atiu mob took a look into the upgrade cookie jar \$300,000 has disappeared. A check with the vouchers at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management make it quite clear who used the money and what for and none of it went on the airport. What more mischief must the bombastic Heather get up to before Puna has the testicle fortitude to hand his DPM a red card?

**After months of** very secretive interviews with ex prisoners and information gathering a full on investigation into allegation of corrupt activities and practises at the Arorangi Prison will be implemented. It is understood outside expertise is being sought to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and investigation into the allegations of corruption at the highest level and prisoners being abused by senior Prison Officers. Current Prison Superintendent is Henry (Black) Heather a brother of MPs William (Smiley) and (Bobcat) Teariki.

**Whether we like** it or not the billion dollar Manganese Nodule dream is just that a dream hyped out of all proportions by its fabricator the Commissioner of silly dreams Paul Lynch. If the office was shut down for ten years after dumping its overpaid staff no one will be any the wiser. The whole set up is a waste of hard earned tax payer's money. After failing to attract any expressions of international interest Lynch is spinning the most ridiculous excuses. Why doesn't he tell us how many countries have their own deposits and the truth why the Cook Islands billions will never materialise for many, many generations? They have been at the bottom of the Ocean for millions of years and they'll be there for more thousands of years.

**Looks like the** CIP will get the jump on the Demos and OCI on the announcement of a new tax relief policy all three want to own. To prevent local businesses from winding up the proposal is to dispose of the exorbitant tax penalties that are crippling struggling businesses. In many cases the tax penalties are more than ten times the actual tax owed. OCI is expected to launch their One Tax policy soon.

**The PM was** able to duck and dive when confronted by the angry protesting Grey Power members but will need to run for cover and hide from the Rarotonga landowners who are not going to give up their land for the Te Mato Vai Stage Two intake constructions without their concerns weaved into the game plan. With TMV driven by the DPM Heather the Chinese contractors are livid at the delays after assurances from the CIP government everything would be smooth sailing. There is a growing resentment among the intake landowners that will be reciprocated with vengeance if government don't do some serious back flipping. Landowner reps will be launching a media campaign to rally supporters and expose government's underarm land grabbing attempts. If the existing pipes get decommissioned local growers will be up in arms over the lack of water. The cleanest drinking water on the island according to recent Ministry of Health testing is Water Station number One in Tupapa courtesy of Mr 500 George Maggie. - George Pitt



William Smiley Heather- Hanging onto the leadership by emotional dramatics



## Telegraphic Transfers to Fiji

We have Fiji at heart. Many of our staff and their families were also affected. The BSP Fiji Group today announced a donation of \$100,000 towards the relief and rehabilitation of those affected by Cyclone Winston.

BSP, Cook Islands will have no charges on Outward Telegraphic Transfers to Fiji starting Monday 22 February 2016 and ends Sunday 13 March 2016.

Sincerely,  
**Bank South Pacific - Cook Islands**

## Letter to the Editor

# Drunk Drivers claims another

Dear Editor,  
With response to Caroline Anderson accident, front page CI News 19/2/16. Caroline is suffering as a continued result of another drunk driver. Firstly prayers to her and her family for a speedy recovery. A drunk driver caused the death of my brother, and had me stuck in bed on traction (leg sling) for 3 months. The ongoing disgusting drunk drivers issue creating this carnage is criminal and requires prompt and decisive action to eradicate this 'cancer' that kills and harms our people. Where are the rights and justice for the victims?

The sole purpose of Government is to protect the rights, freedoms and life of its people. How? By creating laws that aim to eradicate such actions or behaviors for society today! Since the petition back in 2008 to stop compulsory use of helmets the main cry of that petition was a one off measure was not good enough. As a committee member and being in Parliament before a select committee continued deaths and carnage have continued. Time and time again "Law makers" blame past Governments or the petitioners.

This was the request at the time, "Pass Law/s that aim to deter or eradicate the Drunk Driving, Speeding and careless drivers on our roads". This is exactly what officer Hosking said on TV the other night. Repeatedly officers say this on the morning radio.

Can someone tell me how does a helmet save Caroline's suffering? How do you save the lives of our 3 young

ones back in 2010 who died in a car crash in Nikao? The young girl of 15 in Titikaveka who died in a car smash? The Vaiimene girl who was run over and killed 7 years ago when walking by an alleged drunk driver along with all the repeated car accidents. Other car accidents including the taking out power poles, ending up through hedges, front yards and in ditches.

God Bless the souls of the past and current Road Safety Group and volunteers I hear are making an effort in their communities to stop the death and carnage on our roads. The repeat problem is if Laws along with a comprehensive awareness program that don't deter or penalise law breakers, mainly 'Drunk Drivers' then expect the same. Just read court reports in the paper 30% drunk driving and about 30% violence cases mainly domestic cases or assault on females. Here are some options; many are in the RTA Road Code NSW, Australia which are law. I think they are still \$20 Australian last time I checked. These options were mentioned on radio and in the newspapers back in 2008. Impounding and on-selling of vehicles to drunk drivers more than double the limit. Immediate fines and jail time compounding for repeat offenders. Set up Wi-fi footage on lamp-posts and around accident sites around the Island. This can automatically assist evidence for violence and security issues. Texting to POLICE or photos of plate numbers and locations of vehicles into database of vehicles that appear to be driving carelessly

or erratically. That's just some of many. Here is the real kicker 'Political Will'. They will say no it's the past Government or Budget Constraints.

The select committee we attended back in 2008 a current minister stated "An accident referral cost to the tax-payer \$135,000". All the millions and millions piped into multiple project disasters. Know of families having to pay over \$10,000 recently for funeral expenses. Imagine if these innocent

victims of a drunk driver and are bread-winners for young families? Imagine if it is one of your kids?

To pass laws all you need is a Purpose and the convictions along with considerations. Black and white should be simple. Enough said, no more talk sort it out put it through Parliament otherwise sack yourself and go home! Seems to Petition Government is illegal and an un-constitutional act.

*James Thomson Matavera*

## New Zealand High Commission funding for community projects now open

The New Zealand High Commission is inviting applications for funding to support community related development projects. The New Zealand High Commission Fund (previously known as the Head of Mission Fund) has up to \$100,000 available this financial year starting July 2015. Applications for this year's final round of funding are invited by 29 February 2016.

"Through the Fund," said New Zealand High Commissioner Nick Hurley, "we are able to support small-scale, short-term community projects that contribute to wider well-being activities in the Cook Islands community."

"We work mainly with community groups and non-government organisations," said Nick Hurley. "When assessing applications, we also consider how proposed projects impact on gender, human rights, and environment."

Funding approved for activities this year included the purchase of a disc harrow for the Vaipae, Tautu and Vaipeka Growers Association, resources for Te Ngari O Nga Ivi E Rua Mental Health Committee in Mangaia, a zodiac inflatable boat and life jackets for Cook Islands Voyaging Society, and building supplies for the construction of the Pukapuka Disability Centre. The High Commission Fund also supported film production costs for a series on the 'State of Youth' in the Cook Islands.

"The High Commission Fund is an important tool for us to respond to situations where our community partners identify a need, but they do not have the means to address it," said Nick Hurley. "This is one way we can help make a difference."

The next New Zealand High Commission Fund funding round will be held in July 2016.



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# What happens when politicians fail to live up to public expectations?

By Norman George

Politics is a game for gentlemen and ladies. Gentlemanly is defined as genteel, courteous, honourable, polite and cultivated. All laws are authored around those expected to act like gentlemen. This is of critical importance when it is aimed at the use of discretionary powers in the constitution and other laws.

The best example of such a law is the availability of the discretionary powers in article 14(7)(b) of the constitution to suspend a Minister under investigation. Such discretionary power is available to both the P.M. and the Q.R. In highly respected democracies such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, suspension will happen automatically. It is expected and always to be expected of the Prime Ministers of those countries to act appropriately.

The same expectation is held out in relation to the Q.R. When a Prime Minister loses his majority support in Parliament, he should not accept advice from that majority-less PM. The first thing a defeated P.M. will do is to rush to the Q.R. to advise him to dissolve Parliament. If the Q.R. accepts the advice and proceeds to dissolve Parliament, he is guilty of gross misconduct! The normal procedure by convention is for the Q.R. to call on the Leader of the Opposition and give him an opportunity to form a new alternative government. Only when the Opposition fails to put together a majority government that the Q.R. dissolves Parliament and allows a caretaker government to govern during the period of the general elections.

We went through this unfortunate experience once in our tainted political history under a Democratic Party government and Q.R. I state this fearlessly as the records will show that those who abuse office will carry the stain forever. Those currently serving and abusing the Constitution will carry the

same stains on their record and reputation during and after their life time.

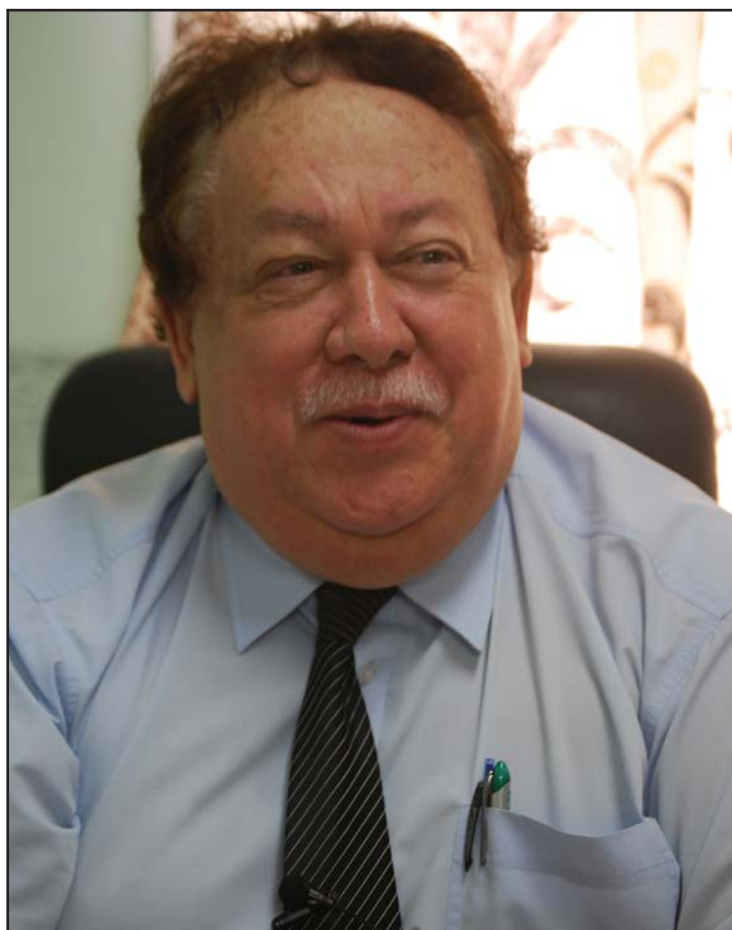
What can the ordinary man in the taro patch do if people in high office fail to carry out their duties? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! Some of those in such a position may consider it smart political move! This is delusional. The Court of Public Opinion considers it shameful, unforgiveable misconduct. This is no more than a cheap shot low blow!

Once upon a time, we were the postcard picture of political purity in the Pacific. Not anymore...fifty years later we end up in a catatonic state of political failure, exhaustion, stagnation and akaparau arrogance beyond belief!

The greatest quality expected of politicians are their trustworthiness, believability (credibility) good faith, reliability and integrity. If politicians live up to these ideals, the public will be beholden to them forever.

Compare this good faith and trust the people of Aitutaki placed in PM PUNA when he promised them an unconditional referendum to decide once and for all, the Sunday flight issue. What happens when the majority of the people voted "no?" Out comes PM PUNA'S new "non binding" clause. When that did not work, another one comes along. It is against the Constitution to ban the Sunday flights. Is it not like saying it is against the Constitution to disqualify drunken drivers? I say with absolute certainty it is not against the Constitution to stop the Sunday flights and further it is against the Constitution to disregard a referendum result conducted in good faith by the people of Aitutaki.

This is where the qualities mentioned above come into play, you readers be the judge. Is it a Cook Islanders character to behave recklessly when they get to the top? There is a lack of basic discipline of those in the Cabinet today. There is no concern for historic consequences. A good example



is about a man who became Prime Minister by various strokes of good fortune and coup de tat.. for a period of 7 years. Study the history of his performances and achievements. The chances are you will not find it. The same person sits in Parliament today and plays no role or contributes in any way.

He attends Parliament, makes no speeches, eats his lunch, draws his salary then goes home day after day. Yet there are people out there with explosive talent who could make a difference, kept out of Parliament.

There is a saying the pessimist sees gloom in every opportunity, an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty. Electors should be informed of the value of their votes. Maybe workshops should be held in every electorate a year before the elections to advise electors what to look for when exercising their electoral franchise. This should be run by neutral presenters assisted by

the Electoral Office.

I have some descriptions of the variety of MPs we have in Parliament, there are the "gift givers" whose only known role is to present donated gifts from the Chinese or the Government, the pied pipers forever soliciting followers, the permanent greeters dishing out thousands of "Kia Oranas" then sitting down, the sleeper who just sits there saying nothing and occasionally slipping into a snooze, those who provide the "aye" for government and "no" for the opposition with no other contribution, the failed missionary who makes up by a sermon fit for a priest from the chambers of Parliament and the regular comfort giver for whatever bereavements occur in the community. Some even waste question time to make their lengthy greetings

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*Ka Kite.*



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# Cook Islands Ratings Affirmed At 'B+/B' On Modest Debt Burden; Outlook Remains Stable

On February 19, 2016, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'B+/B' issuer credit ratings on the Cook Islands. While a number of concerns have been highlighted, the outlook remains stable. The Transfer & Convertibility assessment remains 'AAA'.

## OVERVIEW

- The Cook Islands' developing policymaking and institutional settings; narrow economic base; lack of monetary policy flexibility; and information deficiencies, particularly in the external accounts, weaken the country's credit quality.

- These weaknesses are balanced against the Cook Islands' moderate per capita income level and modest government debt burden.

- As a result, we are affirming the issuer credit ratings on Cook Islands at 'B+/B'.

- The outlook on the ratings remains stable.

## RATIONALE

The ratings on the Cook Islands reflect our view of the country's weak institutional settings, limited monetary policy flexibility, narrow economic base, and lack of external data. Mitigating these weaknesses are the country's moderate GDP per capita and relatively low, but rising, debt levels.

The vulnerabilities associated with the country's weak policymaking culture and institutional settings weigh on the ratings. Weak party affiliations and populist policymaking have historically created instability, and hampered the development and implementation of policies. Drawn out legal challenges to the outcome of the 2014 election hampered the government's policy agenda as the parliament did not sit and couldn't pass legislation. Further, nine coalition governments in 14 years have weakened effective economic and fiscal management and leave scope for a weakening in recent gains in the country's fiscal discipline.

The country lacks monetary policy flexibility because of its use of the New Zealand dollar and absence of a central bank. Its use of the New Zealand

dollar is covered in a 2001 "Joint Centenary Declaration" and not a legal agreement. Using the New Zealand dollar has enabled the Cook Islands to historically have substantially lower inflation than its peers. However, the country loses monetary flexibility as it forfeits monetary independence and an important lever for promoting economic and financial stability.

The lack of external data surrounding the country's balance of payment and international investment position makes assessing the Cook Islands' external position difficult. The limited data available suggest the Cook Islands posts sizable current account surpluses on the strength of the tourism sector. In contrast, the Cook Islands runs wide merchandise trade deficits because of its high dependence on imports of consumer and capital goods, fuel, and food (mostly sourced from New Zealand), while it has only modest exports of fish.

There is no published data on income and transfers.

The Cook Islands' moderate per capita income level and relatively low government debt burden support the rating. Income is high compared to that of peers, with GDP per capita estimated at US\$21,800 in the year ended June 30, 2015. We project Cook Islands' real per capita GDP growth will average 2.8% over 2016 to 2018, partly reflecting further expected declines in its population. Emigration is high in the Cook Islands, averaging 2.8% of the population annually since 2011 and about 1.6% over the past 18 years, reflecting Cook Islanders' rights to live and work in New Zealand, and by extension, Australia. This labor mobility acts as an important safety valve, though, with citizens having access to much greater employment opportunities than what is available in the Cook Islands. It therefore reduces unemployment in the Cook Islands and pressure on the government's budget.

The narrow-based economy is vulnerable to cyclones and

changing tourism preferences on its major revenue earner, the tourism industry. We expect moderate further increases in tourist arrivals to support economic growth, with tourism remaining the country's primary economic activity. The fall in the New Zealand dollar over the past year could benefit the Cook Islands' tourism with potentially more New Zealanders visiting. The Cook Islands still faces competition from other Pacific islands though, particularly for Australian tourists.

In our base-case scenario, we project general government debt will rise by an average 4.6% of GDP annually over 2016 to 2018, with net debt expected to average 23% of GDP over the same period. The government's sizable infrastructure program (including water, sanitation, and road infrastructure) currently underway is increasing its still-modest debt levels, thus reducing fiscal buffers somewhat. These infrastructure projects are funded by official lending and could support the tourism sector and the economy, if the government and private sector can capitalize on this.

The concessional and long-term nature of current government borrowings, as well as the government's modest debt level, means that the ratio of the general government interest expenditure to revenues is low: estimated to be 1.4% on average between fiscal years 2015 and 2017. Because a large portion (about 65%) of this debt is exposed to foreign currency movements, a further depreciation of the New Zealand

dollar could adversely affect its debt-servicing costs.

We equalize the local currency rating with the foreign currency rating, reflecting the Cook Islands' absence of both monetary policy flexibility and a domestic capital market, and its use of the New Zealand dollar. The transfer and convertibility assessment for the Cook Islands is 'AAA', which also reflects its use of the New Zealand dollar.

## OUTLOOK

The stable outlook over the next two years balances the Cook Islands' moderate economic growth prospects and modest level of government debt, against the challenges it faces in overcoming weak political and institutional settings and fostering more robust and diverse economic growth.

The rating could come under pressure if there were a weakening in the government's commitment to uphold past fiscal gains through changes to economic and/or fiscal policies, resulting in weaker fiscal balances and its debt burden rising by significantly more than we currently expect. Further, we could lower the ratings if weakening in global economic conditions reduces tourism sector receipts and, in turn, worsens the government's finances.

Improvements in the sovereign creditworthiness could come with sustained gains in policymaking stability and effectiveness, evidenced by the reduction of sizable data deficiencies, and progress in increasing economic opportunities for residents.

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## *Congratulations to Mrs Lily Vainerere-Patia*

**C**ongratulations to Woman for the Month of February, Mrs Lily Vainerere-Patia, who is also known as Aunty Riri.

Lily was nominated by the Ruatonga Ekalesia as she is a person who is very active in her community the Ruatonga Tapere, performing community service. She is also active in cultural events and church activities.

She was born on Rarotonga on 20 February 1961 being the eighth child in a family of 10 children, 7 boys and 3 girls of which she was the youngest girl. She has six children herself and has six grand children.

She attended Avarua School and Tereora College. After she attained her Cook Islands School Certificate, she left school and worked for the Government Printing Office.

After her marriage to Tangata Vainerere she travelled around the Pacific spending time in different countries such as Vanuatu and the Solomons. They were away for more than 12 years.

Lily has been a very active member of the Avatiu/Ruatonga Golden Oldies Mamas team and weekly community events.

A devoted Christian, she



Woman of the Month for February, Mrs Lily Vainerere-Patia

is very active in the CICC and travelling. She has Avarua as a Tiakono Vaine travelled to Australia and for Tapere Ruatonga. She New Zealand with the is also active in the Atiu Golden Oldies team to community on Rarotonga. play in mamas Netball Among her hobbies and tournaments.

interests are; the Church, Lily says the things that singing, dancing, housie are important to her are; to

serve God and her family, to serve her community with diligence and grace and to do these things to the best of her ability and with love.

Congratulations to you Lily.

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

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# Governance Group to meet later this week

The Government of Cook Islands will be hosting the annual Te Mato Vai Governance Group meeting later this week.

The Governance Group of the Te Mato Vai project will meet in Rarotonga this Friday. The group is made up of representatives from the three governments contributing funding towards the project.

It's made up of officials representing the Cook Islands, the People's Republic of China and New Zealand. The group last met in Auckland in November last year.

There will be 15 officials at

the table, six each from China and the Cook Islands and three from New Zealand. They will be brought up to date on progress with the good news that Stage One – laying new ring mains around the island is all but complete.

They will also be advised about meetings of landowners being held to seek an easement over lands to complete the final part of the inner ring main. Those meetings start next week at the Ministry of Justice and is anticipated to take a month to complete.

The Governance Group will be given an update on

projected timelines for all of the remaining elements of the project including dealing with land issues, design and construction of Stage Two – refurbishing and adding storage at the intakes, connecting the water supply into the new system, flushing and disinfecting of the system and bringing the project fully back on track.

There will also be briefings on the next stage, which will include the development and formation of an SOE – state-owned enterprise – to manage the new water system into the future.

The Governance Group

members will be in Rarotonga for the meeting on Friday and New Zealand and China representatives will fly out over the weekend.



## TE MATO VAI PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that meetings of assembled owners will be held in the Courthouse at Avarua, Rarotonga.

The purpose of these meetings is to grant an easement to Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Government of the Cook Islands for the installation and maintenance of the ringmain water pipe on the parcels of land contained in the following schedule:

DAY	DATE	TIME	LAND NAME
1	29/02/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Maurua 20E, Taipara 21B, Arakuo 34, Te Karonga Tava 18C
2	01/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Totokoitu 26B1, Totokoitu 26B2, Totokoitu 26A Vaikave 23A, Vaikave 23B, Vaikave 23C
3	07/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Turoa 29, Papaaroa 36B3 Papaaroa 36A, Raukura 48A2B
4	08/03/2016	9.00am 11.00	Turoa 32J3 Turoa 30
5	14/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Turoa 33 Raukura 48A1, Turoa 27A
6	15/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Taipara 21A2 Totokoitu 22 Lot 2
7	21/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Te Vaimapia 19 Turoa 28
8	22/03/2016	9.00am 11.00am	Turoa 31A Raukura 48A2A
9	29/03/2016	9.00am	Te Karonga Tava 18B

Please contact Peggy Turua at the Te Mato Vai PMU office on 28851 or email [peggy@kew.com.ws](mailto:peggy@kew.com.ws) for any queries



# On the way to 100% renewable

Solar farms can generally be regarded as Rarotonga's newest type of mass business. Over the last year, a number of well-constructed solar farms have sprouted up around Rarotonga, and good business it is too.

For an investment varying between \$55,000 to \$65,000 you can purchase and install a 21kW solar farm that will return approximately \$13-\$18,000 per year allowing you to get your return on investment in under 5-10 years, depending on your financing arrangements that is. And given solar panels last up to 25 years, and 10 years for inverters, following the initial 5-10 years, you will start to reap the rewards of that investment.

The other attraction for those entering this business, is the low maintenance. If the solar farm is ground mounted and fenced off, the only cost is cutting the grass around it, keeping them clean, and ensuring there are no trees nearby casting shadows onto the panels. Although, it does pay to have them inspected once a year to ensure they are still operating efficiently.

Perhaps the main risk would be during cyclones, and if they are sturdy enough not to be ripped out of the ground they are at risk from flying debris.

The popularity of solar farms as a business investment is a result of Te Aponga's mission following on from the vision set by the Prime Minister in November 2009 for 50% of our islands to be powered by renewable energy by 2015 and 100% by 2020. The first part of that vision being the Northern Group was achieved by the REDD as planned in 2015. The second half of that vision which will see all the Southern Group converted to renewable energy is already underway with Mangaia, Atiu, Mitiaro and Mauke all to be completely converted by the end

*continues on next page*



One of the 5 new generators purchased from China arrives at the Avatiu power station on Tuesday 16 February 2016. Local ingenuity is applied to ensure the truck is able to climb the slope.



*continued from previous page*

of 2017. That part is being managed by the REDD. This just leaves Aitutaki and Rarotonga. Unfortunately, for Rarotonga in particular, because it hardly classifies as having third world living standards, it is very hard to justify aid funding for it.

Although to be fair, under the PEC fund from Japan, Rarotonga is about to receive over 1MW in solar panels from Japan which arrives on the 1st of April 2016 or thereafter. Also, in recent years, New Zealand Aid has sponsored solar panels for the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education and the Airport West solar project. Under the PEC fund, Aitutaki will also receive 1MW in solar panels from Japan.

But overall the transitioning of Rarotonga to renewable energy falls under Te Aponga Uira. For Te Aponga Uira, the next few years will either be about acquiring land and putting up it's own solar farms, otherwise, continuing to allow the public to set up solar farms and selling that back to Te Aponga.

The transition for Rarotonga will be gradual and properly managed. People on Rarotonga expect to have a continuous and reliable power supply. However, the main snag in the whole process is that solar is highly intermittent especially with having so much cloud cover, and periods of rain. This is where the ability of Te Aponga Uira's system to cope with this intermittent supply becomes very critical.

In the last week, Te Aponga Uira installed three new generators with another two to be installed soon. Overall, these have a capacity of 8MW and is of the ability to handle the fluctuations in solar supply. The generators can also run on biofuel, but are also, much more efficient which will result in fuel savings during the transition phase.

The purchase of new generators was essential because the older generators were coming to the end of their useful life. In addition, capability of the older generators in handling fluctuations at one stage was questionable. In fact, in the earlier years of the country's transition, a study had to be commissioned to determine what percentage of solar input could be added to the Te Aponga grid without destabilising the entire island's supply. The figure was touted at 20%, meaning that only 20% of our energy supply could come from supply. This thus placed a limit on the number of solar panels that could be feed energy into the grid.

The present development in terms of the solar farms is the result of system upgrades made in 2014, that saw the automating of the controls of our existing generators. The installation of a SCADA control system, allowed the existing generators to respond quicker to fluctuations from solar supply. But now with the new generators, more growth in terms of the number of solar panels around the island can be expected.

But for Te Aponga, they will continue to invest in infrastructure to see us transition towards the country's renewable energy goals. The next lot of investment is likely to be for storage, that is, using solar energy to charge batteries or whatever technology they identify, that will run the station during periods of no sunlight.

Anyone wanting to set up a solar farm must first seek Te Aponga's approval by way of a permit, and followed by the signing of an agreement. Essentially, this is the most critical aspect of owning a solar farm, because it is Te Aponga that  
*continues on next page*



Recently constructed concrete pads at the Avatiu power station provide the platform for which the generators will permanently sit on. The generators are completely housed within the containers, see the pictures below making it a matter of just fixing the container in place and then connecting it to the system.



continued from previous page

is going to buy your energy from you. There are some other conditions but if you are serious about becoming a solar farm then it is best to get that information from them.

Following that, there are a number of companies that offer solar installations such as Prime Solutions, John Koteka Electrical, Andersons, Solar Bob, Solar 3000, and you will have to contact them to get designs, and quotes. Getting your system designed right will ensure you maximise your investment, as well as, ensure that you get good quality panels. For financing, Bank of Cook Islands offers a renewable energy loan product.

Overall, the efforts of Te Aponga Uira, all the electrical companies, and financiers stand us in good stead to achieve our country's vision.

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LOCATED IN NIKAO MAIN ROAD NEXT TO OASIS ENERGY

# Boxer Briefs

By Charles Pitt

The Cook Islands Boxing Association's Executive Board is organising a Fight Night and it will be the first since last year's AGM to form the new Executive Board. The Board is considering a suitable venue and is keen to utilize the open air space out the front of the National Auditorium. It will be an ideal site with seating under cover.

The Executive Board is hoping to arrange some Celebrity bouts among local identities.

Watch for an announcement soon.

In other boxing news, the Executive Board is looking to conduct a training workshop for Coaches, Trainers, Umpires and Judges. Those who may be interested in attending should keep an eye out for upcoming announcements.

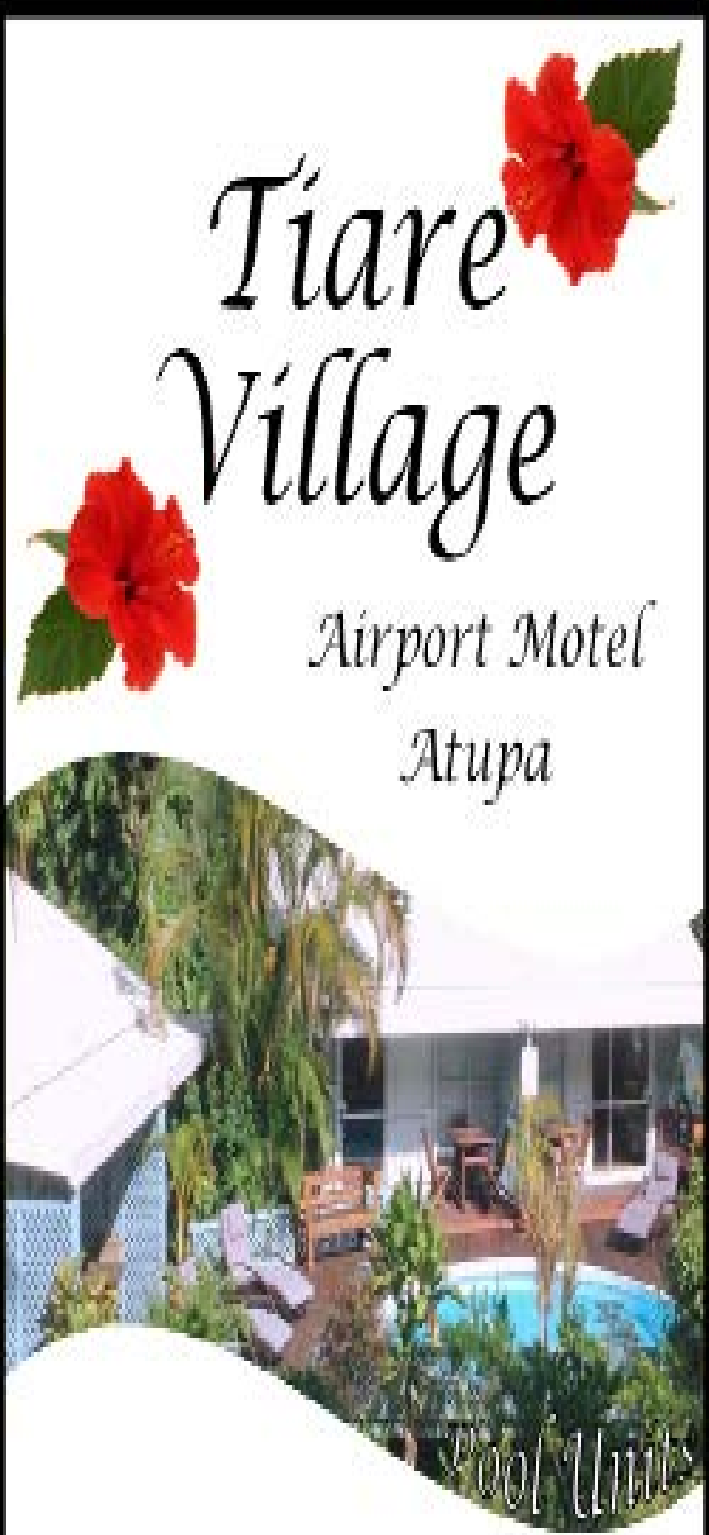
The Board has agreed that the very promising Heavyweight boxer Jubilee Arama, 22 yrs, attend the Olympic Qualifying Champs being held in China from 30 March to 4 April 2016. He will be Cook Islands Boxing's sole representative. The International Association will be contacted for possible funding. Jubilee who represented the Cooks at the Commonwealth Games in India, has won all his last 15 bouts by knock out. He narrowly missed selection for the Commonwealth games in Glasgow when he lost his qualifying bout on points. He is based in Tahiti and is the current Tahiti and Cook Islands Heavyweight Champion and is in the top 5 in the region.

The Executive Board is also aware of Cook Islands boxers in Australia who are keen to represent the Cook Islands. They are Ten Taroma a super heavyweight who stands 6'8" tall and weighs in at 120kgs. The other is Teremoana Junior a heavyweight, 19yrs, and Dolan Gideon Monga, 22yrs, a heavyweight.

# Flashback






Australian boxer Anthony Mundine spars at Kent Hall Titikaveka in January 2012 with a young boxer attached to trainer Ringiao Anguna.



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# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 19 FEB 2016

## Police explain Feleti assault charge

Police Acting Inspector, Solomona Tuaati, was the invited guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Friday 19th February 2016.

Tuaati was on the programme as a result of an invitation to the Police by presenter Tony Hakaoro seeking an explanation as to why Samoan Feleti Iona was charged with common assault as opposed to aggravated assault.

A public outcry calling for Iona to be deported and returned to Samoa was one of the burning issues in the public arena over the past few weeks.

Iona was recently convicted and placed on a suspended sentence following a brutal attack on a local 19 year old teenager.

In his introduction in Maori Hakaoro said he was very pleased that the Police had agreed to come onto the programme with regards to their actions or decisions regarding Iona's case.

"To tatou tumu tapura i teia ai nei i runga nei i Te Kave Korero, te turanga o te Akava i roto i teia manamanata o teia tamaiti Samoa ta tatou i akarongorongo i nga ra, me kare, i nga epetoma i topa ake nei, Feleti Iona, te akaapaanga a te Akava i a ia, tona akautungaangaia, e, i teia ai nei, ina, te mataora nei au i te akakite atu, e, kua ariki mai te Akava i te patiangia e, kia kake mai ratou ki runga i Te Kave Korero kia oronga mai i te au karere akamaramaanga i tei tupu i roto i teia manamanata".

In the first question put to Taaati, Hakaoro asked whether the Police took photographs of the 19 year old victim and his injuries.

"Penei, te uianga tau kia ui atu au, kia riro ei akamaramaanga i to tatou iti tangata, i teia manamanata i tupu, kua akaapa te au Akava i teia tamaiti Samoa, e, kua tiati i a ia ki te tiati i karangaia e, ko te common assault. Eaa tei tupu i teia manamanata, i taau i marama, kua nenei ainei te au Akava i tetai tutu o te victim me kare?"

In response Taaati said that the victim came to the Police to file a complaint; He was then interviewed and a statement was taken from him and he was then requested to take a photograph of him and to bring it to the Police and was asked to see a doctor, and be examined so as to obtain a medical report on his injuries.

"Taku i marama i teia manamanata, i te tupuanga i te po i tupu ai, kua aere mai teia tamaiti, te tamaiti tei taiaia, i te ripoti ki te opati o te Akava. Kua uiuia a ia, kua raveraveia mai

tana tuatua, kua akarakaraia a ia, e, i roto i te reira tuatau, kua pati katoaia ki a ia kia nenei mai i tetai tutu e pera kia oronga mai ki te Akava, e pera katoa kia aere ki ko i te are maki, kia akarakaraia a ia e te taote, kia rauka mai tetai ripoti na te taote no runga i te au ngai kino i runga i a ia".

When asked as to why the victim was not photographed and taken to hospital Taaati admitted that the Police failed in that it is their responsibility to take photographs of the victim and take him to a doctor and obtain a medical report of his injuries.

"I teia tuanga e Tony, ko te tuanga teia e akara nei au e, kua paruparu matou i te reira tuanga. I te tikaanga tikai na matou teia angaanga e rave, na matou e nenei i tona tutu, na matou e apai i a ia ki ko i te taote, kia akaraia a ia e te taote, e pera katoa kia tata mai te taote i tetai ripoti no runga i te au ngai tei kino a ia i roto i teia raveanga".

He added that he is unsure as to why the supervisor on the night did not carry out his duties, not sure why, perhaps there were too many people that night, it was Christmas time, it was Christmas Eve when this happened, perhaps there were too many issues, but he was unsure of the reason.

"I te reira tuanga e Tony, takakore ra oki i aku e, eaa te arataki o te reira po, i kore ei e rave i te au angaanga, kare i papu i aku eaa te tumu, penei e, no te maata i te tangata i te reira po, nga taima Kiritimeti teia, e po tiaki Kiritimeti teia i tupu ai teia manamanata, penei e, no te rairai o te manamanata, e, penei e, kare i taka meitaki i aku eaa tikai te tumu".

When asked as to whether this is a regular mistake on the part of the Police, Taaati said it is not, that it is a one-off incident, that they are well trained and that they will discharge their obligations accordingly because they will charge a person if they are certain that an offence has been committed. This will be achieved by carrying out their duties, by taking photographs, taken to a doctor to be examined and a medical report obtained, for the purposes of ensuring that an offence has been committed.

"Kare e Tony, kare teia i te tupuanga putuputu, ka karanga au e, ko teia, it's just a one off, a one off no te mea, e pupu tangata matou kua tereniia i te rave i ta matou angaanga, e, ka rave matou i ta matou angaanga kia tau no te mea, ka apai matou i te tangata ki te Akavaanga me kite mai matou e, me rauka i a matou i te

akapapu e, e apa tetai, ka rauka i te akaapa i te reira tangata. Ina, ka rauka mai te reira na roto i te rave aereanga i teia au angaanga, te neneianga i te tutu, te apaianga ki ko i te taote kia akarakaraia, kia rauka mai tetai ripoti, i te akapapuanga i te apa".

And when asked as to whether photographs are presented before the Court at the time of sentencing, Taaati said they are, that they accompany the victim impact statement to the Court and they assist the Court in sentencing. However, although that did not happen (in this case), the injuries were described in the Summary of Facts presented before the Court.

"Ae, e orongaia na ki te Akavaanga, ko te tuatau te reira e maaniia na teia apinga e victim impact statement, e kapitii na te tutu ki reira, e orongaia na ki te Akavaanga, ei taururu i te Akavaanga i te tukuanga i tana utunga. No atu ra te reira kare i tupu e Tony, i roto i te Summary of Facts, te akakoukouanga o te akaapaanga i mua i te Akavaanga, kua tata katoaia ki roto i reira te au pakia, me kare, te au kino tei tupu ki runga i teia tamaiti, kua akakite katoaia te reira ki te Akavaanga".

Taaati stated that Iona did not have a criminal history as he had pleaded guilty to a previous charge and was discharged without conviction on that particular charge.

"Kare au e karanga e Tony e, e prior conviction tona. Ka akatika au i taau e, kua tu ana teia tamaiti ki mua i te Akavaanga, kare ra oki a ia i akaapaia na, kua discharged ia without conviction. Ua atu e, kua akatika a ia i te akaapaanga, kua discharge ia ra oki a ia without conviction, no te mea kua tukunaia a ia, kare a ia e akautungaia".

Te Kave Korero thanks Taaati for coming onto the programme and for answering questions in relation to the Feleti Iona case.

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# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 17 FEB 2016

## Appeal for Feleti Iona

A desire to appeal Samoan Feleti Iona's conviction or sentence on one count of common assault was the subject of talkback discussion on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 17th February 2016.

In his introduction in Maori, presenter Tony Hakaoro, said that in the day's paper, Joseph Tererui, spokesperson for the family of the young teenager beaten up by Iona, said that the family would like the Police or Crown Law to appeal the case.

"I roto i te pepa i teia ra, te akakite ra te vaa tuatua o te kopu tangata, ko Joseph Tererui, e, te anoano nei ratou i te Akava, me kare, i te Crown Law, kia apira i teia manamanata o Feleti Iona, ko teia taeake Samoa tei moto, me kare, tei ta, i ta tatou tamaiti Kuki Airani.

Hakaoro said that he had invited Tererui onto the programme but he declined the invitation saying that once matters regarding the appeal are addressed he may come onto the programme in due course.

Hakaoro stated that he had also invited the Commissioner of Police, Maara Tetava, to come onto the programme but he was unable to owing to a prior commitment.

After his introduction Hakaoro then put out an open invitation for a lawyer that may be listening in to the programme to call in and assist the programme in terms of the law relating to appeals.

"Me e roia koe e akarongorongo mai nei koe i te porokaramu i teia ai, ka ariki rekareka roa au i taau tauturu i ta tatou porokaramu, akamaramarama mai koe i te ture no runga i teia".

Hakaoro said that the question to ask is, can the Police or Crown Law appeal this matter? What will they appeal? What will they appeal regarding his sentence? His sentence, as I understand it, was a suspended sentence. If the family wants to appeal the sentence, what then is the appropriate sentence for him? If the Court accepts that he be resentenced, what then is the sentence appropriate for him?

"Ina, ui tatou ki konei e, ka rauka ainei i te Akava, me kare, te Crown Law i te apira i teia? Me tuatua tatou i te apira, ae, i taku i marama, ka rauka i a ratou i te apira. Teia ra te uianga, eaa ta ratou ka apira? Eaa ta ratou ka apira i tona utunga? Ko tona utunga, i taku i marama, e suspended sentence. Me te manako nei oki ratou i reira e, e tau kia apiraia, eaa i reira te

utunga e tau i a ia? Me ka ariki oki te Akavaanga e, kia akautunga akaou i a ia, eaa atu i reira tetai utunga e, e tau nona?"

Hakaoro said this was Iona's first offence before the Court. It would not be appropriate that a person, on his first conviction of common assault, that he be sentenced to imprisonment, or be deported? That would not be appropriate would it?

"E te mea, taku i marama, ko tona apa mua rai teia i mua i te Akavaanga, karanga oki to matou reo Marike e, first offence. Kare oki e tau e, ko tetai tangata e, ko tona apa mua teia e common assault, e ka tuku i a ia ki roto i te are auri, me kare, ka deport i a ia? Kare te reira e tau, kare ainei?"

"What is the appropriate sentence for such a charge? Ko te uianga teia kia ui tatou. What is the appropriate sentence no teia taeake? Eaa te utunga i tau i a ia, me kare ra, eaa tona utunga i tau kia akautungaia a ia?"

Hakaoro stated that the first question is, if the Police, or the Crown Law appeals, what would be the grounds of their appeal? Will they say that the sentence was not tough enough? What would be a better sentence and one that will enable him to be deported? I can't see any tougher sentence.

"Ko te uianga mua teia, me ka apira te Akava, me kare ra, te Crown Law, eaa i reira te grounds o ta raua apira? Ka karanga ainei raua e, kare i matutu meitaki te utunga? Eaa atu oki i reira te utunga ka meitaki atu, e, ka rauka i a ia kia deport ia? Kare au e kite atu na e, e utunga matutu ke atu tetai".

Hakaoro continued saying that if the family wants him (Iona) charged again, he didn't think the law permits that.

"Te rua, me te anoano nei te kopu tangata, e, kia akaapaia akaou teia taeake, kare au e irinaki ana e, ka akatikaia te reira i raro ake i ta tatou ture".

"I taku i marama, i te mea e, kua akautungaia a ia, kua convicted and sentenced no teia tiati e common assault, kare e tikaanga ke i raro i tetai ture ke, kia tipuia te reira conviction e te reira akautungaanga, e oti, akaapa akaouia a ia, tuku akaou i tetai akaapaanga ou nona. I taku i marama, kare te reira e akatikaia e te ture".

"Me paunu oonu atu tatou, mei te mea atu rai i reira e, ko te inangaro o te kopu tangata kia apiraia teia manamanata, i, akakoromaki

mai, karanga to matou reo Pamate e, there will be, me e, apira oki e, against sentence, ka tano ua, ka akatikaia, ko te uianga ra oki i konei, eaa te utunga i tau i a ia. Me e apira ra e, against conviction, e oti, kia tauia te charge, ou, akakoromaki mai, karanga to matou reo Pamate e, there may be no legal grounds kia akaapa akaou i a ia".

Criminal lawyer and former Member of Parliament for Penrhyn, Wilkie Rasmussen, rang Te Kave Korero and contributed to the discussion in Maori by clarifying the law on the subject matter.

Rasmussen said that Iona cannot be charged again because of the principle against 'double jeopardy', that one cannot be charged twice on the same facts.

However Rasmussen said that the family has an option and that option is to proceed by way of a private prosecution.

"Ina, i runga ua i te manako o te kopu tangata, no te mea oki e, kua akautungaia teia tamaiti, e suspended sentence tona, teia taeake Samoa, tera te aiteanga, kare e rauka akaou i te tiati i a ia because no te ture 'double jeopardy'. In other words, te tarua ra koe i reira i te tiatianga on the same facts but e option ta te family, teia te option a te family, e private prosecution".

"So, ko toku manako i reira, ko te option tera a te family, naringa paa ratou i aere i ui advice, penei ko te advice tera ki a ratou but no runga i te double charge a te Akava, I think kare e rauka i te Akava".

Te Kave Korero thanks Rasmussen for his legal opinion on the subject matter as well as callers to the programme for their contributions to the discussion.

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# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 22 FEB 2016

## Cyclone Winston effects

Arona Ngari, Director of the Nikao Meteorological Service, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Monday 22nd February 2016.

In his introduction in Maori, Presenter Tony Hakaoro, said that the subject of the interview was Cyclone Winston and its devastation of Fiji.

“To tatou tumu tapura i teia ai, to tatou taeake, te uriia ko Cyclone Winston, tena kua kite tatou i tana i rave, i tana takinokino i rave i te Basileia i Viti”.

Ngari explained that by the time Winston got to Fiji it was a category five cyclone unleashing its awry at two hundred and fifty kilometers an hour.

“I te taeanga ra ki Viti, mei taau e taiku ra e, category five, koia oki, ko te matangi o teia, e tai anere e rima ngauru maire i te ora, e, uri atu te reira ki roto i te kirometera, mei tetai rua anere e toru ngauru, rua anere rima ngauru kirometera i te viviki o te matangi vaiata ki te mata o Winston”.

Ngari said it is rear to experience a cyclone as powerful as this and when its gets to us it is very devastating.

“Ae, varavara te au uriia e tae ana ki teia turanga i te mea oki ra e, ka anoanoia kia noo ki roto i to tatou pae moana, e, no tetai vaito mei teia te tu, e rikarika te tu kino ta teia ka apai mai”.

Ngari said that most of Winston’s devastation is around the northern islands of Viti Levu, in the outer and small villages with houses blown away and photos of the devastation can be seen online and reports that 29 people have lost their lives, eight or nine missing, and between 200 to 300 are in cyclone centres as their homes have been totally destroyed.

“Ko Viti ua te enua i kino. I te akaraanga ko te au enua i te tua tokerau o te enua maata ko Viti Levu, te au oire tikai i vao, te au oire rikiriki, kua maata te takinokino a teia uriia e pera katoa te au aere tei puiaia ki raro, e, te aere mai nei rai te au tutu na runga i te roro uira, i te kiteanga ra e, mei tetai rua ngauru ma iva paa tei kitenai mai ra e, kua mate, e, mei tetai varu paa, me kore, iva, kua ngaro, kua tae ra te vaito mei tetai rua ki te toru anere, te noo nei rai ki roto i te ngai akaruruanga, i te mea oki ra e, kua takinokinoia to ratou au ngutuare”.

Ngari said that Winston is now about 700 miles south of Fiji and is moving westwards at 15 miles an hour, and is predicted to turn south as

it moves past east of New Caledonia and may well move towards Australia.

“Ko Winston, i a taua e autaratara nei i teia atianga nei, kua kitenai mai e, mei tetai itu anere maire i te tua iku o Viti, te neke nei a ia ki te tua muri, mei tetai tai ngauru ma rima maire i te ora, e, te tamanakoangaia e, ka uri a ia ki te tua iku i a ia e akaruke ra i te tua itinga o New Caledonia, penei e ka nekeneke atu vatata atu i reira ki Autireria.

He added that Winston is weakening as it moves south to cooler waters and will eventually become an extra tropical cyclone.

“Akaraanga, kua pau te maroiroi o teia uriia e aere nei i te mea oki ra e, te nekeneke atu ra ki te tua tonga, na runga atu i reira i te tai anuanu, i te mea oki i reira e, kua anu te tai, kare i reira e rauka i te tamaanaana i teia uriia i a ia e neke nei so ko te ravenga ua teia i reira, ka akaparuparu e tae ua atu a ia ki tetai turanga tei karangaia i te reo papa`a e, extra tropical cyclone”.

He added further that Winston is now blowing at 70 miles an hour and is predicted that within 12 or 24 hours, the wind will reduce down to 45 miles an hour.

“I a ia e noo nei i teia taime, kua taeria ki te itu ngauru maire i te ora te matangi, e, te tamanakoia nei e mei tetai tai ngauru ma rua ora, me kore, e tai ra, ka topa roa te matangi i reira mei tetai a ngauru ma rima maire i te ora”.

As to a potential cyclone on the way, Ngari said there is a weather situation in the north expanding from Tonga to Papua New Guinea which is of concern to them as it is within the South Pacific Convergence Zone.

However, he said it is unlikely to form into a cyclone as there is a lot of fine weather in the south unless water temperatures in the north rise to 28 or 29 degrees which will then fuel the weather situation and may form into or become a cyclone.

Ngari warns however that we should remain cyclone prepared as it is this time of the year that cyclones have occurred not only in the Cook Islands but through out the Pacific also.

“Tau tatou kia noo teateamamao i te mea oki ra e, ko te a teia o te marama i a tatou e tomo atu nei ki te tuatau o te uriia, e, kua kite tatou i reira e, ko teia marama ko February, ko te marama kino roa atu teia i te au uriia tei tupu ana, kare no te Kuki Airani ua nei, mari ra, no te paenua Pasifika, e, ka anoanoia tatou kia tamou ua atu i to tatou tu teateamamao i te akarongorongo i te au nuti e pera katoa i te akapapa i a tatou, e ua ake e, ka tupu mai tetai uriia ki a tatou”.

Te Kave Korero thanks Ngari for his expertise and explanation with respect to Cyclone Winston.

Te Kave Korero feels the loss of lives and loved ones in Fiji and offers its condolences to the Government and people of Fiji. God bless.



# No need for National Airline says Tibetan Consultant

Last week the Herald reported the donation by a Sultan from Abu Dhabi of an aircraft for the Cook Islands National Airline.

However, PM Puna has now been advised by the internationally acclaimed Tibetan aviation consultant, Mr Daliramalama Monk, that the Cook Islands does not need a national airline. Mr Monk recommends we adopt "self flight capability" or "Self-Fly" for short.

Self-Fly involves the application of highly focused mental energy to warp the Earth's magnetic field to achieve levitation and instant flight capability.

Mr Monk is willing to travel to the Cook Islands to teach locals how to apply the technique. Interestingly, his fee is \$12 million, the same figure as for the Air NZ subsidy.

PM Puna says government may

have to introduce legislation as, "We cannot have people flying off to wherever they want whenever they want. And we don't want people sneaking banned goods into the country."

PM Puna added, "People may be required to fly in groups of 6 and up to 30 and Sunday flights may be banned."

Self flight capability poses risks to the community and normal aircraft said PM Puna, "We cannot have people dropping their food scraps, cans and empty beer bottles from a great height and colliding with aircraft."

PM Puna is expected to be among the first to learn the technique.

When asked about the mental effects of constant concentration on air travel, Mr Monk said, "travel is a state of mind. Frequent fliers have their heads in the clouds."



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*Respect fire, respect our community....*

# How to be a force in the world

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this Article of Encouragement I will be speaking about WISDOM. There are so many knowledgeable people around but they lack 'wisdom'. And wisdom means 'being able to reflect the mind of Christ'. By the same token wisdom is 'the correct use of knowledge'.

Therefore the title of this Article of Encouragement is How To Be A Force In The World. In the Book of Proverbs 30v.24-28 is the story of 3 small insects and 1 small animal. Although they are small and have no natural means of protecting themselves from their enemies, v.24 reads they are exceedingly or unusually wise. The lesson here is that God does not want His people, those who put their Trust in Him to be 'wise only' but to be 'exceedingly or unusually wise.' God uses His creations to teach us spiritual truth and principles to help encourage us in this life that we're living in.

The 4 insects or animals mentioned in our reading are the Ants; Rock Badger; Locust and the Spider. The important thing is not these insects or animals but their habits or behaviours.

In v.25 it reads "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in summer." Ants speak to us of PREPARATION. The lesson is that the people who prepare themselves are regarded as "wise people". On the other hand people who do not prepare themselves are "unwise". James 1v.5-6[a] reads "If any of you lacks

wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith..." Whatever we do in life we must prepare ourselves properly. I Corinthians 3v.19 reads "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness.'" Proverbs 4v.7 "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and in all your getting, get understanding."

Proverbs 30v.26 reads "The rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags." The Rock Badger speaks of PROTECTION. Rock Badger is a weak animal. Whenever the enemies come to attack the Rock Badger they always run for protection into the gap in the rock or crevice. The Rock symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ. When we struggle in life we must run and seek protection and security in Jesus. To seek 'protection' and 'security' in Jesus is an act of "wisdom". Jesus said in Matthew 7v.(v.24) 'a wise man built his house upon the rock' (v.26) ' a foolish man who built his house on the sand.' The question is where are you building your life on? The 'Rock' or the 'sand'.

Proverbs 30v.27 reads "The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks." The Locust speaks of the PRESERVATION OF UNITY of the saints. The locust knows that when they go out separately or individually the enemy will have a greater chance of killing them. But when they all move together as a group they will have a



better chance of survival and they can do a lot of damage. Likewise with us, if we all combine spiritually and go forward we will be a synergetic force and we will have a greater chance of survival and overcoming the enemy. This is a combined energy going in the same direction. Jesus said in Matthew 12v.25[c] "...a house divided against itself will not stand." There's power in 'unity' Hebrews 10v.25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Proverbs 30v.28 "The spider skilfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings'

palaces." The Spider speaks of PERSEVERANCE. Not giving up. Wisdom is portrayed through perseverance. Things will change if we persevere. If you know that what you're doing is right in the sight of God, please don't give up! You can also uphold your situation to the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer! Ask Him through prayer for divine intervention. Allow God to take charge of your situation and continue to pray – don't give up! "Tough times don't last but tough people do!" so don't give up if you know that you are right in the sight of God!

May this Article help you in life and may you have a God blessed week! Te Atua te aroa!

# The Joker vs The Moaner

By David Lewis

Unless there exists a hidden consortium from Upper Lappland which has secretly bought the rights to Wembley Stadium, this weekend's English League Cup Final is being played in England!

In the globalised setting of modern professional football, it's just about the only thing left that is English!

What else?

The ownership of the two teams involved?

I don't think so.

The players?

Apart from maybe a couple on either side, I don't think so either.

The boots? The shirts? The shorts? The socks? The ball?

Unlikely.

According to my latest research, they closed down the last English boot factory late in nineteenth century and the final remaining English shirt, short and sock mill went bankrupt on the Eve of the first Boer War.

As for the manufacture of balls, these were outsourced to an up-and-coming operation somewhere in East Bulgaria shortly after the "Save our Pigs' Bladders Movement" collapsed in late August 1992.

All this of course, prompts two important questions.

Is English football now totally globalised?

The answer, of course, is "Yes".

And this, in turn, prompts yet another question. Is the English League Cup Final worth watching?

Yet again, I can assure all my football watching mates that the answer is a resounding "Yes".

And that leads me to a third and final question.

Why?

The answer is quite straight forward.

It is an enormous amount going for it. It's not a battle

between football teams. It's between managers.

It's a grim and bitterly-fought contest to which each one brings all their national strengths.

It is likely to go down in football history as the first ever confrontation between Germany and Chile in the savage form of modern football known as.....

Managerial Excuses!

## GERMANY

Represented by Jurgen Klopp, the renowned and vicious laugher and joker.

Facts: Born in Stuttgart, Germany; 48 years old and an enormous 6' 4" tall; very well-known for his outstanding grin, perpetual smile and lots of jokes

Prior managing experience: FC Pforzheim, Eintracht Frankfurt, Victoria Sindlingen, Rot-Weiss Frankfurt, Mainz 05, and Borussia Dortmund.

Favourite Excuses : Referees, Players, Weather, Ground Conditions, Over-crowded schedules, Linesmen and Sideline Technology

## CHILE

Starring Manuel Pellegrini, the well-known bewildered moaner.

Facts: Born in Saniago, Chile; 62 years old and a modest 6' 0" tall; very well-known for his outstanding look of incomprehension when he loses, perpetual look of bewilderment and lots quite misunderstanding.

Prior managing experience: Universidad de Chile, Palestino; O'Higgins, Universidad Catolica, LDU Quito, San Lornezo, River Plate, Villareal, Real Madrid, Malaga.

Favourite Excuse: Referees, Players, Weather, Ground Conditions, Over-crowded schedules, Linesmen and Sideline Technology.

## MATCH PROSPECTS

An in-depth look at what each manager brings to

the Wembley Final, offers thoroughly intriguing things to look forward to.

Jurgen may be more inclined to wander around the touchline as he's only forty-eight, but the excuses are tantalizingly identical.

1. Referees shouldn't really be there in the first place as they can't see straight and should be subject to a statutory examination before being allowed anywhere near the field.

2. They should furthermore only be allowed to blow their whistle after consulting the relevant manager.

Jurgen has a distant advantage here as he is 6' 4" and extremely relevant.

3. Players are a last resort and only used after close examination of their twitter account and check with their agents.

Jurgen again has a slight advantage here as most of his players aren't as big as him whereas Manuel merely moans about his ones.

4. Both appear to be level on the question of weather and ground conditions, especially when they are drawn against Rutland Wanderers or East Devonshire Whatsits in the FA Cup.

5. On the over-crowded schedules, they appear to cancel each out as Manuel's

schedule will be distinctly under-crowded next season whilst Jurgen will be applying to enter the Euro Mid-Table Also-Rans Cup.

6. On linesmen and the need for better sideline technology, these are both likely to be irrelevant very soon when new international robots are expected to be rushed in from Lower Lappland, equipped with globalised spectacles.

## PAST RECORD

Both are brilliant and there's very little to choose between them. This was clearly revealed in the League Cup's semi-finals.

In these, Manuel was outstanding in dealing with coach Roberto Martinez's endless technological complaints about a linesman missing the ball go out. He bewilderedly commented about referees regularly and probably deliberately ignoring regular and certainly obvious penalties for his team.

And Mark Hughes' complaint that his team they were "the better side" was powerfully dismissed by Jurgen with a laugh and a decisive statement that Mark Hughes' goal was "double-offside."

## CONCLUSION

Liverpool and Manchester City.

The only English things I've mentioned!



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Once again Fiji's pain is going to be our gain. Our one finger economy based on tourism will reap some of Fiji's cancelled holiday bookings due to their heavy losses from Cyclone Winston. Lets therefore not get all upbeat and excited by the visitor figures in a year's time as if the spike in numbers was because of some Cook Islands Tourism marketing strategy. Spare a thought for Minister Nandi Glassie who had to endure Fiji's worst natural disaster and can't get a flight out.



Why isn't our self indulgent government sending an immediate response Disaster Management team to Fiji to volunteer help and get some real cold face experience in cyclone recovery? Come on Elvis get that corporate jet, we could have had a relief team and emergency supplies landed there before NZ and Australia. Anyway why has our government taken so long to offer Fiji assistance or is it going to take our Red Cross team to kick start a helping hand?



The travel addicted PM Puna and his groupies from MMR are off north next week to chin wag about fishing matters and hand out \$10,000 cheques to northern fishing clubs. But chooks everyone knows the PM is using this trip north as a cover to campaign to get CIP faithful into Island council positions ahead of an early general election about June. To further camouflage his shady dealing he is offering seats aboard the chartered plane to the Demo Leader. Will the Demo Leader also use this opportunity to spread the Gospel according to the Saint of smiles, St Smiley? Will the grand master of strategic thinking, Deadly Drolley wise



up his Leader?



And just what lollies is the travel addicted PM Puna going to offer the northern CIP alliance to stay in the CIP fold? He cannot stop purse seine fishing as the northerners want because he cannot do without the \$7m it brings in from the US fleet, that's if they stay with the treaty. Chooks the PM has a bunch of Aces up his sleeve and he will spring some surprises. Don't be surprised if he announces a big, multi-million dollar deal for Penrhyn.



What deals has the travel addicted PM Puna agreed with Air Tahiti and Samoa Air in re-establishing the old Coral Route? Big Red has rubbed his crystal balls hard and a vision has appeared. Don't be surprised if there's a deal to include a northern run at cheap fares to take in the PM's home coral lump Manihiki and also Penrhyn which badly needs to stay within the CIP camp and not defect to the Demos Wiley Wilkie.



After putting our emergency response teams through endless local workshops to practice and hone their skills, when the real thing comes along and crushes Fiji, where is our team?

There's nothing like the real event to test your capabilities. We knew the cyclone was going to hit and should have offered our services and had a team ready to swoop in to assist our regional mates. The Air Raro big bird could have been chartered. No one would have complained at the cost. Instead our travel addicted PM Puna would rather spend a jaw dropping \$45,000 for a jaunt up north to campaign for the local elections and upcoming snap elections.



The CIP can kiss goodbye to Aitutaki at the next general election. Aitutaki believe it or not is going to go over in droves to One Cook Islands. The travel addicted PM Puna has shot himself in the proverbial foot over the Sunday flights issue. You cannot upset God and expect to get away with it. "Keep the Sabbath holy!"



Local back from a holiday in Tahiti reports that over there they are also afflicted with the unsightly algae and seaweed! Even in some of their outer islands resorts! So what are the Tahitians doing about it? Nothing it appears. It seems they are going to allow nature to take its course. Should we be doing the same? Is it wise to

interfere with Mother Nature? What do we humans know? We've only been around for a couple of million years!



It is well known that the King of Rock'n Roll Elvis Presley had a fear of flying which is why he never did a world tour. What a contrast to his current namesake, our own Elvis, who just can't wait to get on a plane and fly somewhere, anywhere!



Tupapa's fearless 498 vote winning action man mighty Maggie isn't waiting for Public Health to track down and squash the Zika mossier. He's out with his own spraying gear and doing the job himself which begs the question, where and what are our other MPs doing?



Why did the Supreme Commander of the Revenue Management Army Division, Brigadier Andrew Haigh, confront and slap our National Treasure, a defenseless pensioner, Lance Corporal Tavioni with a summons to appear before the Beak for Court Martial for failing to file a tax return? Was it pay back? Lance Corporal Tavioni did not appear to answer the charge as he was on sick parade but is to re-appear this week before the court martial hearing. Fighting in the trenches, Tavioni claims papers were sent in dispatches to Brigadier Haigh at HQ but these may have been intercepted by enemy agents.



Oh dear Chooks! The Beak has dismissed all appeals in the Makea Nui title case and handed down a 55 page decision that the title goes to the senior line of Mokoroa! At last, after 20 years, some movement?

FAT CATS

Number

2, Cabinet is to charter an Air NZ plane for government MPs to go to Fiji to check on Cook Islanders following cyclone Winston!

Are they taking tins of corned beef?



Mozzie

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government is chartering an Air NZ jet to go to Fiji to check on Cook Islanders after the cyclone!

Will there be room to evacuate our people?

Nope! All seats are taken up by partners, officials and consultants!



VACANCY



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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
BIOSECURITY OFFICER VACANCY**

The Ministry of Agriculture is seeking to recruit a Biosecurity Officer to work within the Biosecurity Service. We are looking for a young person age between 18 – 23 years old that have completed NCEA level 3 qualifications from a tertiary institution.

The successful applicant should have good understanding of general quarantine and have some computer skills will be an advantage as it involves updating of biosecurity data base registrar.

The successful applicant is expected to be willing to up skill his/her knowledge in agriculture science and be fluent in both Maori and English, and must have a pleasant attitude and relating to the sharing and transfer of knowledge to the general public.

Written applications including CV should be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, P.O.Box 96, Rarotonga or e mail: mat.purea@agriculture.gov.ck

A job description is available on request and applications close 4.00 pm Friday 11 March 2016.

**Housekeeper/Babysitter fulltime, two small children, also some cleaning duties, Muri.**  
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**Sales & Reservations Co-ordinator required full-time at Te Vara Nui. Please email your CV to accounts@tevaranui.co.ck**

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PUBLIC NOTICE



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) hereby advises the public that its office will be closed on Thursday 25 February 2016 due to a one day retreat workshop. Consequently, the following services will be affected:

1. Main Office - Corporate, Regulatory, Planning & Design, Civil Works, WATSAN.
2. Other services
  - Civil Works - Road Excavations
  - Water Works - New Water Connection installation
  - Regulatory - Building and Electrical Inspection
3. Rarotonga Waste

The ICI office will reopen as normal on Friday 26 February 2016.

We apologize for any inconvenience and thank the public for their understanding.

Ngametua Pokino  
Secretary



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

**PURSUANT** to the Island Government Act 2012-13 and the Island Government (Electoral) Regulations, I, **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**

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COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

# 100 days to go before Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam

**1** 1 February 2016  
Hagatña, Guam/Noumea, New Caledonia – Tomorrow marks 100 days until the world gathers in Guam to witness the Pacific Island region’s diverse and spectacular cultural heritage on show at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts.

Also known as FestPac2016, the 12th edition of the quadrennial festival – taking place in the capital, Hagatña, from 22 May to 4 June – is world renowned for its feast of Pacific cultural and contemporary practises, including demonstrations from artisans who are keeping ancient carving, weaving, tattooing and dancing traditions alive.

“The energy of the biggest cultural event in our island’s history is definitely being felt throughout our community, which was shown at the 100-day

wave we held at Chief Quipuha Park in our capital city of Hagatña,” said FestPac Organizing Committee Chairman Nathan Denight.

“We are confident Guam will be ready to welcome the participating countries and showcase the Håfa Adai spirit and our unique Chamorro culture.”

The theme for the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts is What we own, What we have, What we share, United voices of the Pacific.

“A lot of planning has gone into hosting this important event for the Pacific which the Government of Guam has tirelessly spearheaded over the past few years and heading into the final stretch, no doubt the enthusiasm and anticipation is building among the participating countries and territories as well,” Pacific Community (SPC) Deputy

Director, Social Development Division, Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago - Elisara said.

“The Festival of Pacific Arts has a proud legacy spanning four decades and as festival custodian, SPC continues to actively support the Festival Organising Committee and national preparations,” Ms Tago-Elisara added.

The unique festival was conceived to preserve and promote traditional and contemporary cultural practices and expressive arts in the Pacific Islands.

It was initiated by the Pacific Community with the first edition held in 1972 in Fiji.

Guam has participated in every Festival of Pacific Arts, including the most recent edition held in Solomon Islands in 2012.

Among the events coinciding with the festival in Guam will

be the third Pacific Ministers of Culture meeting, to be facilitated by SPC.

Media contacts:  
Lauren Robinson acting Media Relations Team Leader, laurenr@spc.int or +679 337 9250

Josh Tyquiengco, Guam Visitors Bureau Public Information Officer, josh.tyquiengco@visitguam.org.

More information: The 27 countries and territories participating at FestPac2016 will be: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam (host), Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:romani.katoa@cookislands.gov.ck)  
PEC Panel Storage

Office of the Prime Minister  
Closing date: 26 February 2016  
Closing time: 3pm

# Seabed Minerals exploration licencing update

Under the direction of the Minister Responsible for Minerals and Natural Resources, the Hon. Mark Brown, on-going preliminary discussions are continuing between the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA) with a number of overseas entities, which remain interested in undertaking licenced Exploration activities for Deep Seabed Minerals in the Cook Islands Nodules zones.

The Cook Islands waters contain a valuable and unique Manganese Nodule resource estimated at 10 billion tonnes, situated on the deep-sea floor at 5000 metres depth and stretching for hundreds of kilometres, from remote north east of Penrhyn to the far south of Mangaia.

Since 2013, under our Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Act 2009, the SBMA has established a robust Licencing system and Regulatory Framework, which includes an option to allocate Exploration rights by General Application and also by a Tender Process. This Tender Process option allows the release of a limited number of specific Nodules blocks, over which valid Applications to Explore can be received, evaluated and granted. Due Diligence assessment and consultation are key parts of this Tender Process option, based on best international practice and advice.

The first 5 month Application phase for the first 2015 Tender has now expired in January, with the receipt of no Applications by the SBMA. This result was not entirely unexpected, as stated by Minister Brown

at the Tender opening in August 2015, that he did not expect a mad rush of Applications at this time.

This realistic view is based on a number of current external market factors, which are beyond the control of the Cook Islands, as a deep sea mineral resource owning nation. These factors include the high cost of deep sea minerals exploration costing many millions of dollars of high risk capital investment and the current depressed global minerals markets.

This Tender process option was recommended to the previous Government on advice sought in 2008 from the Commonwealth Secretariat (CommSec) as a means of controlling and attracting DSM interest to our EEZ and formed a key plank of the Seabed Minerals Act 2009, drafted with CommSec assistance.

Our national Tender process was founded on a world standard Regulatory Framework of Licencing, which was developed with the assistance of the Natural Resource Adviser, Darryl Thorburn, who was contracted since 2012 until November, under assistance provided by CommSec.

It is also based on the New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (NZPAM) Licencing system and advice. Expert legal and technical assistance and advice was also obtained from the SPC EU Deep Sea Minerals Project.

Currently the appetite for allocating risk capital for funding such a venture as deep sea minerals exploration is exceedingly tight, due to the global mineral price cycle being at its lowest for the last 20

years or so.

The Authority's view is that currently there is a distinct lack of global risk capital investment for Exploration for deep Sea Minerals, given this low global demand for minerals. It is considered that this will be the prevailing economic setting for at least 12-24 months.

However, the lack of Applications at this time may not be an entirely bad result, as the Cook Islands has been taking a "steady as she goes" approach and this enforced delay will allow more review of the Regulatory Framework, on-going capacity building, promotion, consultation and time to see how the DSM is

progressing in other nations and in international waters.

## BACKGROUND

Normally in frontier minerals exploration, it is junior miners that make the first efforts and larger miners follow later. Junior miners have low capital but more appetite for risk, whereas large multinational mining companies are more "risk averse" and often want almost risk free opportunities before investing in large capital projects.

"Investors face a "cataclysmic year" where stock markets could fall by up to 20% and oil could slump to \$16 a barrel, economists at the Royal Bank of Scotland have warned."

## VACANCIES



### CROWN LAW OFFICE-COOK ISLANDS Two Intermediate Crown Counsel to be appointed

The Solicitor-General seeks under the Crown Law Office Act 1980, s.8 to appoint two lawyers with 3 to 5 years post qualification experience who are experienced in some or all of: criminal, public, administrative and commercial law. The successful applicants will be flexible and willing to work on a broad range of legal issues, from giving legal advice to government, and drafting legislation, to litigation in the criminal and civil jurisdictions. The successful applicants will have strong communication and advocacy skills and a willingness to manage a high case load. He or she should be a team player in an office where team mentoring is essential. Ideally the applicants will be fluent in Cook Islands Maori and will have knowledge and understanding of Cook Islands culture, customs and traditions.

This is an opportunity to provide legal support to Government that is challenging and to develop your career towards a senior level.

Expressions of interest together with a full CV, and the name of at least one referee and no more than three who are prepared to be contacted by us, are to be provided by 15 March 2015 to Dorothy Ivaiti, Crown Law Office in an envelope marked "Lawyer Vacancy", P O Box 494, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or by email to FinancialController, dorothy.ivaiti@cookislands.gov.ck.