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1 May 2013

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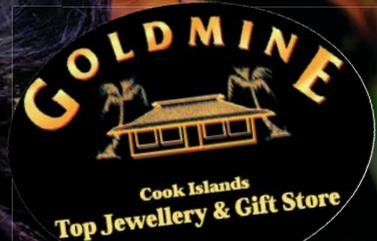
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Cross-border displacement focus of talks here

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

In three week's time, the Cook Islands will play host to an international gathering – the first of its kind to take place in the world. The meeting is a consultative one, focusing on the Nansen Initiative – “Human Mobility, Natural Disasters, and Climate Change in the Pacific”.

The Nansen Initiative is being spearheaded by the governments of Norway and Switzerland – the co-chairs of a Steering Group of countries that also includes Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico and the Philippines.

I was pleased to meet representatives of the Initiative in Auckland recently, where I expressed support for the group's global efforts. Furthermore, interest in the Cook Islands being a potential host of the first of five regional consultations was also discussed with Nansen Initiative Special Envoy Walter Kaelin and Swiss Ambassador Marion Krupski. And as a result of ongoing talks over recent days, it has now been agreed that Rarotonga would be the venue for promoting the agenda of cross-border displacement of people affected by natural disasters and climate change.

This will be an important undertaking for us and an opportunity to participate in the launch of a new global effort to contend with an emerging issue –



PM Henry Puna and Special Envoy Walter Kaelin and Swiss Ambassador Marion Krupski

for the Pacific at least. The displacement of people due to the negative impacts of climate change is very much a serious concern for the survival of Small Islands Developing States.

For instance, we've already been alerted to the plight of low-lying atoll states like Tuvalu and Kiribati, which have placed this issue high on the agenda for our region. The cross-border movement of people due to the threat of disaster and damage caused by extreme weather and climate change is a reality that is reaching the shores of our

colleagues in the Pacific. The sensitivity surrounding the nature of displaced people is going to require considerable discussion by us all.

The Rarotonga meeting will be held 21-24 May and is expected to be attended by numerous experts, consultants, academics and representatives of international organisations and civil society from around the world. There is a Ministerial component and I have issued invitations to the Foreign Ministers of all the Pacific Islands Forum members, as well as

appropriate representation from the French Overseas Territories.

Technical discussions will be work-shopped with the assistance of SPREP prior to political consideration by Pacific policy-makers, and these will look at loss and damage issues related to climate change.

After the Pacific Consultation in Rarotonga, the Nansen Initiative process is expected to move through the regions of Central America, East Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, over the course of 2013 and 2014.

Government: a blood sucking monster

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Last week the Prime Minister stooped low to the mud grounds when he wrote that the Opposition was heading to “oblivion” in his column. The headline was sensationalized but the contents were nothing more than a dull, boring justification as to why Parliament did not sit when he originally planned for it to sit on the 15th of April which was several weeks ago. He spoke of windows of opportunity for Parliament to sit. This is all hogwash. In fact what he conveyed unintentionally was that the Government was not ready with the necessary bills for Parliament to consider. It shows downright failure to plan and to stick to a plan. But why should we all be surprised? He announced a hundred days sitting for 2011 instead Parliament sat for just a handful of days. So why should we trust him? I’ll tell you why we should not.

Henry Puna’s Government is a “blood sucking monster.” I make no apologies for calling it that. In my Longman’s Dictionary, “blood sucking” means “someone who always uses other people’s money.” That’s self explanatory isn’t it?

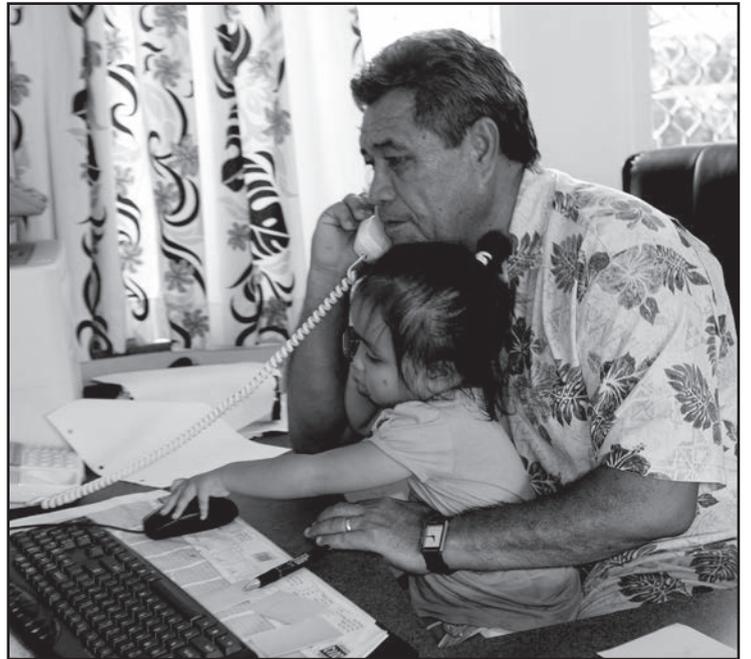
When this Government came into office in November 2010, it showed the voters its intention to take, take and take money from the taxpayers and general public. It introduced the withholding tax, increased departure tax (which will continue to increase periodically), it increased levies on import items and it increased the annual allocation for Ministerial offices. It also increased the Civil List which in essence increased the travel budget for Ministers and of course Ministers travelled incessantly until that Civil List ran out. Parliament was convened in fact twice to top up the operating budget in particular the Minister’s travel budget. Several amendments to “money” legislations were also passed to make easy the process of taking from the public.

Then the “mother of all blood-sucking” money grabbing stunts was pulled and that is to tax the pensioners who had brought their pension or superannuation from New Zealand to our shores.

All they wanted to do was retire happily and yes, you guessed it, spend their money here. But not to this Government, this is money for the taking. The law was read out “that all must pay their taxes” and the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister defended the Government’s decision. In a moment of self-denial they both said it was the previous Government’s fault by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. That denial was also a lie – a deliberate ploy to distract attention from their centre stage tragedy and self-flagellation. The MOU was in fact a confirmation of the Democratic Party Government initiative to hold annual talks with the New Zealand Government - Minister to Minister.

If we look at Government’s approach. It is piecemeal, haphazard and disjointed. Therefore there is no overall plan. It either shows a lack of understanding of the process of Government and the reason why we have a Government. Or it shows arrogance and disrespect for the people of this country. It regards us, all of us as gullible and mindless. Well, Puna and Brown certainly got the worse end of the stick. Pensioners are up in arms and Government’s own hard core supporters are joining the opposition in droves, yes, in droves. One staunch long time CIP supporter walked into the Opposition Office the other day and announced loudly, “I am joining the Demo”. That’s hardly heading to “oblivion” – it’s more like heading to victory, a landslide victory.

Let me warn everybody. The blood sucking will get worse. That’s because the Government needs to claw back its excessive spending. All these projects it is championing will come at a cost to each and every one of us. Believe me someone has to pay. The “green energy” installations are based on user-pay. You and I will cough up money to pay for maintenance and for the cost of materials. Nothing is for free. And we know the Government has signed up loans several humongous loans for the water and road projects despite warnings from the Opposition. Despite the grant and aid dressing up – we the country is up to our



neck in loan and payment of it is from your pocket.

My father always said to me “Son, live within your means”. That’s my philosophy in life and is also consistent with the view

of the Democratic (Opposition) Party that I lead today. I have announced that the Demos have a plan, a great plan – in fact a better plan than that of this aimless Government.



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New fridge/freezer exchange programme will save money



Group attending the signing ceremony.

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

Many people witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Fridge Freezer Replacement Program, which was held on Wednesday the 1st of May 2013 at the offices of the Renewable Energy Division within the office of the Prime Minister.

The programme to replace fridge/freezers with more efficient units is Stage 2 of an initiative of the PEEP programme-Pacific Energy Efficiency Programme- whose main sponsor is the Asia Development Bank (ADB).

Among those who were present was Diana Clarke Bates, Manager of Cook Islands Trading Corporation (CITC), Felix Gooneratne, Team Leader of the ADB program, Roger de Bray, Energy Commissioner and Don Dorrell, Managing Director of Cook Islands Motor Centre (CIMC).

Energy conservation and

efficiency is one of the significant goals that the signing hopes to obtain over the year. Contribution from all of those involved (CITC, Cook Islands Motor Centre and the government) has played an important role in this program, particularly with the objective of reducing electricity consumption within households. This will in turn save consumers money. Financial assistance in the form of subsidies has been provided by the ADB. "We value opinions from all sides and we are most determined to make this work," says Roger.

Two MOUs' have occurred prior to this program as contracts have been finalized and the necessary equipment will be established between the months of August and September. The Fridge Freezer Replacement Program is just one of the many stages that will assist in the upcoming projects, which are highly anticipated to

be helpful in the overall aim to be a better country.

Surveys were conducted in 2011 and the feedback from the general public has been most useful. It is estimated that forty percent of household electricity costs goes on refrigeration alone. If there was a transition to high efficiency models, consumers would save around \$200-\$300 annually on electricity, therefore increasing their amount of disposable income. This makes instigating the Program worthwhile in the Pacific region.

"We're hoping that along with this program, people will embrace this opportunity," says Felix. Interested parties will be able to claim a rebate from both CITC and CIMC, exchanging an old fridge/freezer for a brand new one. This will be for a limited time only and runs on a "first come, first served" basis. There will be on-site monitoring, just to ensure the development

of the Program.

Team Leader, Felix Gooneratne says that he and his group have been hard at work, trying to get the Program "up and running".

"Our aim is the model transformation of electrical appliances so that they acquire a higher efficiency grade," he continues. The Fridge Freezer Replacement Program is the third project to be launched and the only one of its kind, according to Felix. "It has also been a learning curve for us."

John Mateara, a representative of CITC, says that his corporation is "happy to be on board."

"This initiative will be beneficial, not only for CITC and CIMC, but for the households as well," John states. The encourage people to partake in this and application forms will be available. "We will also dispose of your white ware in a non-hazardous manner," he assures the public.

Letter to the Editor

The Makea ariki title after Puta-ki-te-tai and prior to 1823

Dear Sir /Madam
I read with great interest the letter written by Ross Holmes in your paper—concerning the Makea Ariki title and the stories he wrote that was written by individuals like him who do not really know and understand our traditional customs and cultural practices.

Europeans assume and believe that they know it all about us because they live among us and participate with our everyday affairs. None of them want to know the other side of the coin as the saying goes. I read

this with much sadness and was unhappy with the way he demised some of our ancestors and ancestress as just a servant girl etc. Did he ever ask for the genealogies of those individuals he stated as servant women?

He also commented that one of my great grand uncles Rupe Raea told Steven Savage that the Makea Ariki is not the real Ariki's- Ross, if that is what he had said to Steven Savage then he was really going against the genealogy he gave and swore in the court hearing in 1906- but you know Ross I doubt it –

Steven Savage had made up this story – and the stories that you and Yolander got were written by Europeans and those who do not know our values and beliefs or want to get rid of the Makea Families

For your information there are two Makea Te Pa Atua Kino this is the genealogy Rupe Raea gave the court in October 1906.

Mata Pa Ariki (m) of Takitumu =married= 1st Marriage Akimano aka Okimano sister of Rangi Makeakea aka Rangi Makea and they had---- Makea Pa Taputapuatea (m) Makea Te Pa Atua Kino (m) Makea Te Ruaroa (m) Te Airi (f) Tekura Amama (f) -----Mata Pa 2nd Marriage Vaaiturangi of Teakataura and they had Te Ururoa (m) Moeavaroa =married= Po Te Aunauna and they had Taitua (m) Te Pa Atuakino Tama(m) (a name sake of his half brother Te Pa Atua Kino from their fathers first marriage---as it was and still is our customs to name one's child after a brother or sister)who was adopted by Makea Tekeu-- Te Tauira (f)----- so the 1st Te Pa Atuakino son of Mata Pa Ariki and Akimano aka Okimano was adopted by Rangi Makeakea aka Makea –in our traditional customs (tama kokoti) Legally adopted as his own son Te Pa Atuakino lost all his birth rights

from his birth father Mata Pa Ariki of Takitumu shares of lands and what he owns. That is the reason Pa Ariki and Kainuku requested Tinirau Ariki to return to Te Au O Tonga because blood is thicker than water- our people are fearsome in war but are also forgiving and caring.

You also stated that Makea Pini Nui and Makea Tekeu Karika mothers were servant girls - Makea Pini's mother is the daughter of one of the Mataiapo you mentioned Tamaiva aka Tamaiva Tumupu Te Tupu Ariki- whose name was Te Puapuaara aka Puaraa , a daughter of a sub chief a servant girl? Makea Tekeu Karika's mother is Pouna a Nia her father is a sub chief under Kainuku and Pa Nia Mataiapo a servant girl? For you to write this defaming our ancestors and ancestress as factual issues is not on- Yolander and those who are supporting her are really hurting themselves not us. Hope this will give a bit of our stories and who we are ----We are also descendants of Te Ponikiniki whose ancestors migrated from Hiva Nui that will be another story to tell. Kia Orana e Kia Manuia ite Atua

Toi Tu Rahui Tepapa Mairi David

47 Raglan Street, Mangere East , Auckland . New Zealand 'rahuidavid@hotmail.com'



At the signing of the fridge freezer exchange programme on Wednesday. Lto R: Diana Clarke (CITC), Felix (ADB), Roger (REDD) and Don Dorrell (Motorcentre)

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Our Cover Girl Joining Kapa Ipo



Our front page for Herald issue 664 is Hareta Tiraa-Passfield, who is a student at Tereora College and enjoys reading. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



Event Organiser Sis Short of Staircase Restaurant & Bar

By Norma Ngatamariki

On the 18th of May, the Staircase Restaurant & Bar will be set ablaze with the upcoming Kapa Ipo Dance Competition. Manager, Sisi Short, anticipates that there will, undoubtedly, be a large turn-out for the event. The competition is meant for a duet couple and will be run in two categories: The Open category, from 16 years upwards and the Masters category, which is from 35 years upwards. "Surprisingly, there are a lot of youth who are interested in this event," Sisi says. The couples who are interested in joining will have to perform two items: The slow song, which is more expressive in terms of actions and hand gestures and then there is the drumbeat, which is further split into the slow and fast beat. The theme

will let the general public know when that will be determined. Of course, with events of this scale, there will be some prizes up for grabs. For first placing alone, there is a cash prize of \$2000, kindly sponsored by the Staircase Restaurant & Bar. The Ministry of Culture has promised to assist with the event and Sisi is still seeking sponsorship from interested parties. The Kapa Ipo Dance Competition began in 2009 and since then it has been very successful. "It will be a dinner and show on the night, so everybody is most welcome to attend and watch our talented potential dancers," Sisi shares.

You can pick up a registration forms from the office at Staircase Restaurant or phone 22254 or 52881, where Sisi can email a form to you.



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Knickers in a Twist over road works

By Norma Ngatamariki

We're just sick and tired of it all," says Elizabeth Jamieson, Owner and Manager of Tupapa lingerie business, Knickers in a Twist. She spoke with the Herald on Tuesday about the road works that have occurred right on her doorstep and how it has negatively affected the progression of her business. Her husband, Tony Jamieson, has decided to take some form of action and has written a report addressed to the Chamber of Commerce. "We've waited long enough," he says.

Although we may rejoice in the fact that improvements will ultimately be made to the current water pressure system, we tend to overlook the harmful impact it will have on the businesses along the roads. Despite it being temporary, the effects it has, at least from a business's perspective, is perpetual. "We understand the importance of the project," Tony says, "but they have not done anything to alleviate potential harm."

The pair is disappointed with the lack of (almost absent) communication between those who are in charge of the Works and the businesses. What little notification they did receive was brief in detail, as the duration of the road works was undetermined. Elizabeth and Tony were under the assumption that works would be completed in just less than two weeks. In actuality, it was an ongoing process that would continue for almost three months. "Three months without being approached by anybody is far too long," says Tony.

Approximately thirty percent worth of stock was affected by dust settling in the store. The Jamiesons' would spend three hours of each working day on cleaning alone, but their efforts seemed almost futile, as they would discover a fresh layer of dust the next day. "The dust has affected our products so badly, that we have had to reduce their prices to almost three-quarters of what they're actually worth." With that being said, their sales have dwindled down to an alarmingly low number. Elizabeth and Tony were also



experiencing difficulties in attaining customers because, along with the dust, there were detours and heavy machinery obstructing the road, making it almost impossible for prospective customers to visit the store. "We've actually lost clientele to this." They appreciate the patience and understanding of their current customers.

Knickers in a Twist aren't the only business that has been affected by this predicament.

The Convenience Store and Ngatipa Dairy are also distressed over the matter.

"We're doing everything we can just to stay in business," Elizabeth states. She has taken the initiative to be proactive, creating a 'Road Works' shoes catalogue, organizing lingerie parties and having sales with great bargains. They're even willing to take orders and make home deliveries just to make ends meet. "This is our life investment, so of course we

have to do something in order to make it work."

Tony reckons that everybody should work in a collaborative manner. "All we're asking for is a little consultation, so that we're informed of when the Road Works will be completed, for what length of time it will last and so forth." They're seeking compensation for the damage that has been caused to their stock and that a contingency plan is implemented and acted upon, in order to rectify the damages.



PM calls Demo consultation shoddy

The Prime Minister Henry Puna says the failure by the previous government in handling tax matters and not fully informing the public and stakeholders about taxation rules was nothing short of “shoddy” and a “disgrace”.

“I’m not talking about the principles supporting tax reform, I’m talking about process and implementation, and the fact that the former Democratic Party Government failed in its duty to consult with the people on matters that directly affected them, especially our elderly,” he says.

The signing of a Taxing Rights Agreement with New Zealand on 9 July 2009 was not the subject of public consultation or awareness – especially as it applied to New Zealand pension collectors.

“A simple speech in the Cabinet Room doesn’t cut it. This was a mammoth failure to consult and inform”, the Prime Minister says.

“The management of process was shoddy and the outcomes a complete disgrace.”

Government records show that Cabinet approved the signing of a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with New Zealand, on 26 June 2009. The submission of a TIEA was accompanied by a supplementary agreement covering the “Allocation of Taxing Rights with Respect to Certain Income of Individuals” and to “establish a mutual agreement procedure in respect of transfer pricing adjustments”. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the liability of costs

for tax information requests was also approved for signing.

These tax arrangements were entered into in the context of international pressure from the OECD for offshore financial jurisdictions to conform with principles of transparency and effective exchange of information.

Two weeks after the previous government approved the tax agreements, the former Prime Minister Jim Marurai signed the taxing rights agreement along with visiting NZ leader John Key.

Prime Minister Puna says the Democratic Party administration neglected its duty to inform stakeholders of the implications of that agreement. Moreover, the Finance Ministry failed to ensure there was adequate follow-up to inform people

about these measures. The portability of NZ pensions to the Cook Islands was allowed in late 1999 and the 2009 taxing rights provisions allowed the taxing of these pensioners in either the Cook Islands or NZ.

Nearly four years later, the public is still coming to terms with how this applies to Cook Islanders.

However, Puna said his government would ensure that the people are not punished unfairly because of yet another debacle by the previous government – another legacy of shameful administration.

The government is consulting with stakeholders on how to move forward and will be firming the directives with the Finance Ministry.

Water shortage serious

By Norma Ngatamariki

Rarotonga has experienced little or no rainfall during the past three months (from January to March). Throughout this period, water level in the intakes has plummeted a staggering 265mm which is alarming. It puts the reserves at less than 45 per cent which means the situation is now critical.

In January alone, rainfall measured 308mm but in March rainfall recorded was a meager 42.5mm. Water intakes all over Rarotonga have been negatively affected especially for those who reside in Tupapa, whose feeble water pressure is a major concern.

In 2010, Meteorological Services (Met Services) verified that the water levels were severely low, with 38.5mm of rain recorded, gradually rising in 2011 with an average rainfall of 88mm. In 2012, which was the Year of the Water Dragon, the skies dropped an average of 195mm of rain.

Maara Vaiimene of the Met Office says that January’s Cyclone Gary boosted Rarotonga’s rainfall. However the current El Nino southern oscillation (a band of warm ocean water temperatures causing climatic

changes and extreme weather across the Pacific Ocean) could explain the sizable jump between January and March.

Wigmore’s Waterfall is just one of the many areas presently affected by the lack of rainfall. This has, in turn, affected the number of tourists visiting the popular site as the once strongly flowing waterfall has been reduced to a mere trickle. One could literally walk on the pebbled floor, which is supposed to be overflowing with water. It is a very sad sight. Vaiimene says rainwater needs to be at least 50mm and above to sustain water supplies. The lack of water means that we have hit a critical stage, where we will soon start to see water conservation measures kicking in.

Adrian Teotahi of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning’s (MOIP) Water Division, called for water conservation measures to become effective as intakes were now recorded as sinking below forty percent capacity.

The water shortage raises serious questions about successive government’s priorities in the water area. It is admirable to provide homes with subsidized water tanks to collect free rain water for use



Monday-No water flowing at Wigmore’s waterfall with an almost dried up pool.

later but what if the rains do not come for 3-4 months? What then? Government needs to ensure security of supply and to ensure this, giant reservoirs are needed and these can be constructed in the inland valleys

up in the hills. The present day catchments are far too small. The current, multi-million dollar project to upgrade the water reticulation infrastructure will all mean nothing if there is no guaranteed supply.



The changing environment for renewable energy

The energy environment is changing. We see it around the globe as more countries turn to renewable energy solutions to achieve their power needs.

While we may be burning diesel today to fire up the nine generators at the Avatiu Power Station to feed the power demand for the whole of Rarotonga, it will be a different story in a couple of years. Expect more of your electricity to come then from "clean" energy sources, particularly solar.

We have discussed previously the challenges associated with renewable energy - including intermittency, distributed generation, and storage.

But despite all the challenges, the truth is the environment in Rarotonga is changing. How so?

Firstly, Rarotonga will be getting more of its electricity from renewable energy sources, obliging TAU to phase out its fossil-fuelled production of power.

Secondly, there will be opportunities for private sector to get involved in the generation of power. TAU will both generate power and buy power from private producers



Checking out the setup at the Avatiu Power Station

but it will remain the sole distributor of power due to its ownership and maintenance of the national grid.

Will this mean a change in the price consumers pay for power? The answer is probably no. The likely picture will be for prices to remain relatively stable if the power generated by private renewable energy producers can be supplied to TAU at a cost similar to the price of the fuel that is presently used to generate power out of Avatiu.

For prices to come down you will really need some development to happen like

higher power output for the grid can accept energy smaller cross section area of PV panels that lead to lower manufacturing costs and in turn lower capital costs of plant to produce high quality, safe, customers and TAU alike. The positive news is that something like this is always a possibility because the trend in recent years has been for technology and capital costs to come down dramatically.

But the critical position as far as TAU and private energy producers are concerned is the point of equilibrium for incorporating renewable energy. This is the peak at which

produced by renewable energy sources with no storage and minimal stabilisation and still continuous power.

For power consumers, this critical point is when the cost of stable, high quality energy approaches the cost of base renewable energy generation. If it goes beyond this then renewable energy will cost significantly more due to the added expense of necessary grid enhancements and storage facilities (and load shifting).





Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Update

Project City Contractors reach Parekura



Cook Islands Television towards Telecom Cook Islands with detour to Moss Road.

Project City contractors have now reached Parekura and Tutakimoa in the central business district of Avarua.

They have completed the laying of water mains and sub-mains pipelines on the main road including Maire Nui Drive and are now concentrating on the trenching and laying the sub-mains on the main connections roads in town. The new areas include Parekura road leading to CITV, Telecom Cook Islands and the Office of the Prime Minister.

Also St Josephs Road leading to General Transport, Nukutere College and St Josephs Primary School and Moss Rd and environs.

In addition, the contractors are installing bulk-water meter chambers outside Cook's Corner and another chamber close to Budget Rental in St Joseph's Road.

Engineers from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning advise that pressure testing is being carried out on a continuous basis.

Testing on the trunk-mains is being carried out from Central Motel around the Ara Metua and back to General Transport in St Joseph's Rd.

Tupapa sub-mains on the inland side of the main road are also being tested, and once there is an all-clear on the testing, that side of the road can be reinstated.

Most of the testing has actually been completed but the current water shortage is hampering progress because of low water pressure. Testing involves filling the particular stretch of water pipes from a water hydrant ensuring that all air is removed, then using a water blaster to force water through at high pressure to ensure there are no leaks.

There have been very few leaks detected, none of which involved the pipes but were traced to the connecting valves, which have all been rectified.

The Ministry engineering team apologises for any inconvenience

caused to the public but advise that disruptions to traffic on the side roads of Parekura and Tutakimoa will continue until the end of this week. They appeal to the public to continue to be patient and to drive with caution in the area and to

adhere to the detour signs in place.

Project City 2 is due for completion in June 2013 after which the contract for the road upgrade of the main road, Ara Metua and main link roads in town will begin.



Contractors trenching along Moss Road



Asian Development Bank



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

Water Conservation requested as Rarotonga Water Intakes low

Water levels have dropped to well below normal pressure levels at all the water intakes around the island of Rarotonga according to the Water Works division Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning.

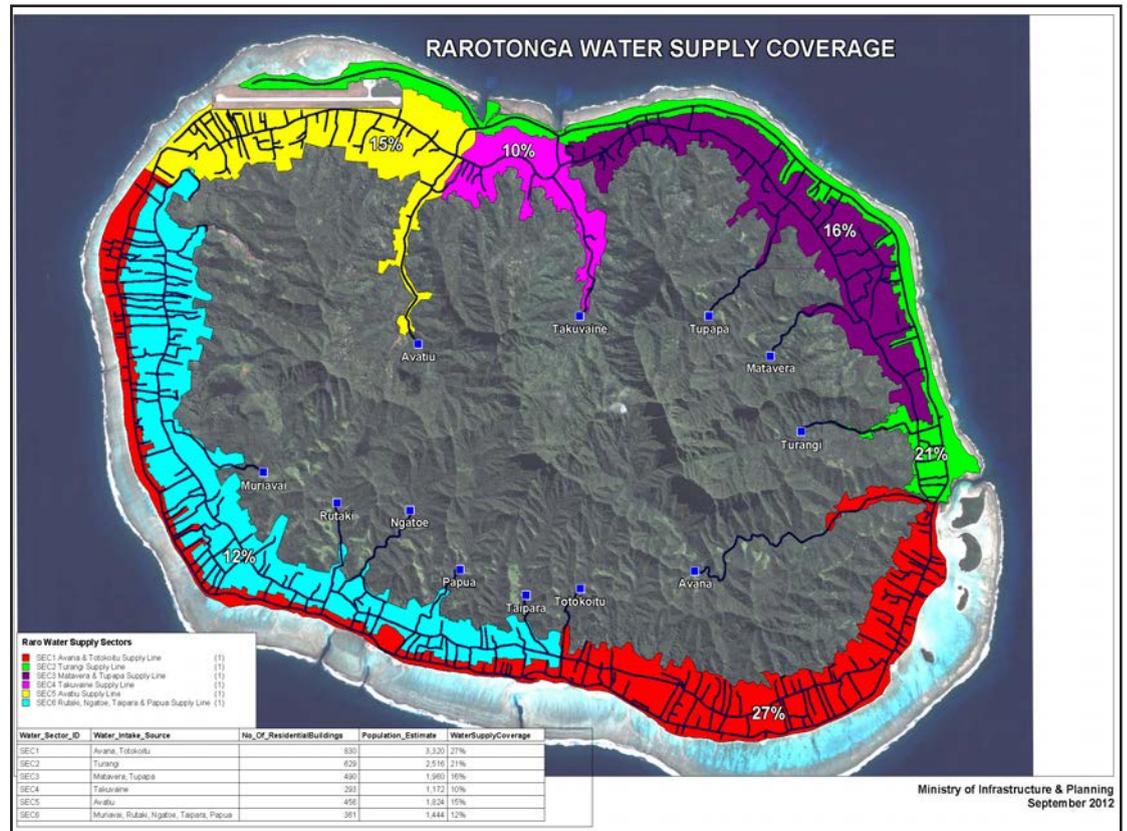
The main intakes are Avana, Turangi, Avatiu and Totokoitu all of which are at very low levels. For instance, Avana is at 37 percent capacity with a flow of 15-20 litres per second compared to 40 or more litres per second. Avana water intakes to Titikaveka –Arorangi main road as well as Matavera to the town area on the main road.

Turangi is at sitting at 40% capacity with a flow of 13-20 litres per second compared to 52 litres per second and supplies Matavera to Met Office.

Avatiu intake is at 44% capacity with a flow of 10-15 litres per second, normally at 40 litres per second. In other words, there is hardly any flow at the moment.

Last week was Northern and Eastern side for last three weeks but this week has affected all intakes on Rarotonga.

NIWA prediction for March-April-May is normal and below in terms of rainfall, therefore



the public is advised to take all measures to conserve water and use water wisely.

Growers are requested to limit their watering in the plantations to early hours of the morning

and late in the evening and are asked not leave water taps running unattended.

Householders are requested to use laundry water for gardening and car-wash, and even then

to limit their laundry use to conserve water.

If the public see any leaking pipes please contact Water Works division at Ministry of Infrastructure on 20321 immediately.

Charter flights to outer islands a waste of public money

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

The Opposition is extremely concerned that within a short space of time over the last few months the Government has chartered five flights to the Northern Group round the rocks run when one properly planned one could do. There had also been numerous charters to the Southern Cooks.

It appears that whenever a Minister wants to head to the Outer Islands, he will charter a flight at will and it

appears that they seem to be duplicating the purpose of the trips.

So far the Prime Minister has been on a charter flight to Manihiki a couple of times, one for him to have a holiday and now we hear that Minister Bishop was in Manihiki again for Pearl Authority and Marine matters. Minister Bishop was recently on a charter flight with the Education Department to the Northern Islands as well as Mangaia. Minister Teariki Heather was also on his own charters to the South and Northern Cooks.

These Ministers cannot hide that fact that they are out there campaigning. For example the Mangaia charters just so happened to coincide with the Tamarua bye-election in Mangaia and of course these visits to the North all tie in with attempts by the Prime Minister to re-boost his falling ranking in his constituency.

This is outrageous and downright reckless and arrogant of the Government. It must be costing hundreds of thousands of dollars for these flights to take place. They show no regard for the hardships

that people are facing instead they are bent on soothing their egos.

The reports coming back to the Opposition is that these Ministers are wasting their time and are blatantly buying votes and coercing people into agreeing to crazy ideas such as purse seining.

They should do the responsible thing, plan carefully and get their message across rather than land on these islands with false hopes and of course stop compromising themselves by making false promises.

Cook Islands connections

By Sally Hosking

Before I started this degree, I wondered how I was going to survive three years of tertiary study. Now that I am in the first semester of my third and final year of a BAS (Bachelor of Architectural Studies), I wonder where the time has gone!

I have four papers this semester. Architectural technology 307; this course exposes students to the environmental issues seen at present, and provides vital information on how to design environmentally friendly homes. It explains the principles of passive solar design and how we can apply those to the built environment. It's a very interesting paper. On most occasions I find that the content is a lot to take in, but I've developed a routine. Before every lecture I remind myself that all the information is beneficial, especially since the Prime Minister wants the Cook Islands to be 100% energy renewable by 2020!

Media 373 is the paper that lets us get a little bit crazy. The main purpose of this course is to fabricate something using digital technology. At the moment we're experimenting with 3D modeling software such as Rhino and Grasshopper. This semester I will be working with two others, and we've decided to develop a portable sleeping space - one that will be easy to carry and set up inside studio. The whole idea came about after realizing that students, at some point, will need a nap - especially after working for more than eight hours inside studio. Everyone in this course has amazing concepts up their sleeves, and since all concepts



are in the development stages, it will be interesting to see what everyone comes up with.

My favourite paper this semester will have to be HISTORY 337. While most find it tedious, I'm sitting in my corner thinking "Halleluia! Something I can relate too!" This semester we're focusing on historic architecture within the Oceanic region, which includes the Cook Islands! Our first assignment was a 1600 word essay about a building constructed during, or before the nineteenth century in Oceania. Fascinated by coral slab construction, I decided to research into the construction of the Titikaveka CICC (Cook Islands Christian Church). I am amazed. I feel like I have learnt so much about Cook Islands history in the past few weeks than I did in 17 years of being a student. It's sad but true - that sometimes we don't truly appreciate the things that make home what it is, until we leave.

DESIGN 300 is my biggest paper. It is 100% coursework - which means our final grade depends on our presentation at 'CRIT DAY'. This is where

we present our design to our tutor and other guest critics, and they give feedback on the concept behind your design, and your presentation. Often our presentation consists of a plan, sections, elevations, a model, and renders of how the space will be used. Students would normally want to spend two to three weeks working on their final presentation. Majority of the time this doesn't happen due to unforeseen circumstances, yet in my two years I have always seen end products that look so amazing, you can't even see the struggle they went through. This semester we're working on developing a water education center for Onehunga. The paper is being led by Jeremy Treadwell who specializes in many fields of architecture and has been heavily involved with projects in the Cook Islands!

In terms of my social life. Well, no complaining there! Being part of AUCISA (Auckland University Cook Islands Student Association) has been the icing on the cake for my

journey at University. If you're ever planning on attending The University of Auckland, or the Auckland University of Technology (AUT), I would highly recommend that you sign up to be a member of the group. The team is currently preparing to compete at 'Taokotaianga 2013'. Taokotaianga (abbreviated as TKT) is a conference where Cook Island Students from participating Universities around New Zealand gather to embrace, celebrate, and enrich our experiences as Cook Islanders, by competing in activities such as cultural performances, debates, speeches, arts and sports. This year's competition will be hosted by WUCIA (Waikato University Cook Islands Association) from the 3rd - 7th of July.

So as you can imagine, life is busy here in Auckland! My course concludes for the semester on the 17th of June. Until then, there are lots of work to do, and lots of assignments to get through. See you all next month!

Cook Islands challenge

By Alan Apted

Manukau Courier April 9 2013

Time is against Barry George as he plots a strategy designed to take the Cook Islands to a playoff against Fiji for a place in the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England.

It's a game to be scheduled to take place around the middle of next year and is one of the new Cook Islands wants to be in Fiji for

For now though his focus is on the Oceania Rugby world Championship where teams form American Samoa, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Wallis and Futuna, Tahiti, Tuvalu and Vanuatu will be vying for the opportunity to play Fiji.

The championship doubles as the World Cup qualifier and will be played in Papua New Guinea in June.

That leaves George, a Manukau Rovers Rugby Club diehard and sports development manager with Counties Manukau Sport, just three months to stage trials and select a team from players scattered around New Zealand and Australia. It's a big ask but the 49-year old is driven by the challenge. "I'm excited. It's going to be a challenge but I look forward to it" George says.

"The biggest issue will be organising players and trials. We have players based in New Zealand, Australia and Cook Islands and I want to ensure they're all aware of the Oceania World Championship and the

best players are available. George says that Cook Islands Rugby Union isn't blessed with money so the campaign will be run on a shoestring budget. But he is optimistic that Cook Islands will have the talent. He says Cook Islanders who grew up in New Zealand will have an understanding of the game players from the other competing countries won't have. He's hoping that advantage will work in his favor. George has set his first muster down for the Queen's Birthday weekend, May 31 to June 3. He is sending a SOS asking Cook Islands players all over to New Zealand to contact him about their availability to attend trials. "We have something similar being arranged in Australia and I'm planning to head over to the Cook Islands to cast a eye on the players there.

"I saw and talked to a number of players at the Hong Kong Sevens. They were mainly backs. We need to look at the quality of forwards there are in the Cooks". Getting a side selected as quickly as possible will be the key to a successful campaign he says. George is well known is Auckland rugby coaching circles. He coached the Manukau Rovers premier team on and off for several seasons and coached club rugby in England and Jersey. George says he's grateful to his employer Counties Manukau Sport for giving his the opportunity.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best ever Android Apps

Auto Memory Manager

When a computer needs a performance boost, one of the most obvious ways is to upgrade or at least, manage memory; the same goes for mobile devices. Auto Memory Manager is an ad-supported app that provides detailed memory information, and lets you set memory priority on apps. It's worth downloading when your Android phone begins to feel sluggish.

Beautiful Widgets

The Beautiful Widgets app lets you customize your phone's homescreen, with weather reports, clocks, battery status, and different elements. It's a simple app that makes your Android's homescreen more useful to you, based on what information you want to see. And, as the name implies, it does it with grace.

Maxthon Internet Browser

If I could personify Maxthon, he'd be a crazy genius. This HTML5-ready Chinese invention is packed with endless configurations like advanced gesturing (that goes beyond that offered by Dolphin HD), www/WAP toggling, fetching, and day/night mode. You can even personalize it to rename the app, select a different icon for the app, and change its skin.



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Respect *By Mata Rakanui*

Cook Islander Mata Rakanui is Professor of English at Soongsil University in Seoul, Korea. He has worked in Korea since August 2000.

Korean society and structure is based largely on Chinese Confucian principles which are prevalent throughout the nation. Derived from the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551-479BC) Confucian principles have a number of key elements. Among these is respect for teachers, seniors and elders this is sometimes called filial piety. In Korean society this is of utmost importance. Respect for teachers is such that there is even a day designated for teachers where students present them with gifts or even take them out to dinner or drinks.

Respect for the elderly is very common and is one of the key fabrics that seem to hold Korean society together. This is demonstrated daily whereby seats on buses or trains are regularly offered to seniors or as previously discussed in Korean drinking culture whereby two hands holding the glass and drinking away from an older person are commonly practiced. In Korea there is also a parents day whereby children dress in traditional costumes and bow to parents in receipt of an envelope of money that could be anything from \$10-\$100.

Koreans celebrate two key holidays during the year. One is the Lunar New Year which is a month or two after our normal New Year's holiday. It usually involves drinking, gifts and of course great consumption of food. If you can manage to avoid most of the country travelling it is a lot of fun having a second New Year's party. The other holiday is called Chuseok. This is the celebration of the harvest during September whereby great respect is paid to the past ancestors. This might involve bowing at tombs and placing food and alcohol there as a mark of respect. All following a highly structured and organized system of etiquette passed down



through the generations.

When I first came to Korea I was puzzled as to scenes whereby I would watch women and young men go and smoke in bathrooms hidden away from the group they were with. Returning to the group and claiming that they didn't smoke. There is a known tradition in Korea of not smoking in front of elders and those older than you in a sign of respect. It would cause major problems by engaging in this act.

Koreans when they are born are regarded as one year older. They take into account the period of time spent in the womb. As a result there is confusion sometimes when asked your age as they can be confused over their Korean age or international age.

In Korea it is all about determining as soon as possible the hierarchy in relationships and if you have a link to that person no matter how tedious. By having a connection you have an angle to relate to someone. This could be anything from what town you are from to

Korea-Soliders showing respect

what elementary school you attended. These relationships determine your relationship and also your ability to advance in life. No matter how obscure they are they will count. An extreme example if you can follow me for a second could be a friend whose brother went to school with my cousins' wife holds relevance and a connection that brings closeness and networks for life. This kind of tedious link will put someone at an advantage compared to someone else.

When you meet Koreans for the first time you generally get asked 3 questions.

- 1) How old are you?
- 2) Why did you come to Korea?
- 3) Are you married?

These three questions will determine your relationship and communication with another person. By asking your age they can determine who has the seniority in relationships. Even if you were born a day earlier than the other person you would become their senior

and they would treat you with respect. In terms of language using a form of Korean that is honorific rather than the normal day to day Korean allows distinction between groups and respect to elders, bosses, parents or anyone in a higher social standing. The second question comes from curiosity to find out your general reasons why you didn't go to another country. What is it about Korea that interests you? Finally, by determining your marital status they can work out if something is wrong with you for not marrying and why you don't fit the image of a perfect family.

Korea, where traditionalism and modernity attempt to coexist with interesting results, a nation where the concept of respect filters through society and has an essential role in holding this society together. Sometimes I wonder if some key points could be incorporated into the youth of the Cooks and New Zealand where some of them seem to have gone astray.

Arorangi Bowling Club

A Member of Bowls Cook Islands, Inc (1928)

By Ben Mose

The Arorangi Bowling Club this Wednesday afternoon continues the 4th round robin, for men's triples and women pairs for the 2013 Club Championship, at the Rarotonga Bowling Club. After the competition the club will host a small kaikai to honour our Aka Tauira Junior Bowlers, recently competed at the National Junior C'Ship.

Congratulation to all Junior members of the Arorangi Bowling Club from the Patron

Tinomana Ariki, te Tauturu Kaumaiti, Te President Hon. Teariki Heather, tona Tauturu Iro Rangi and all the Members, we salute you and your families for a fantastic bowling results for the Arorangi Bowling Club.

Cathy Mataio, 19 yrs old, 2nd year International Bowler U25 ranked No 1. Took out 1st prize, for the Junior Girl's title.

Ngametua Tera and Coleen Paniani for making the quarter final during the Championship.

Taiki Paniani, up and coming young bowler with great future in bowling, to capture the

1st prize for U25 title and ranked No 1 in the Cook Islands.

Papa Pi Paniani, 18yrs old, runner up to Taiki has performed well and looking forward representing the Cook Islands with Cathy at the World Bowls Junior Cup at Warilla, NSW Australia next year. Ranked No 2.

Chairman of the National Junior Bowls, Arama Tera must be congratulated for job well done and we look forward to do the same next year.



COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION

Destination Development Initiatives

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Destination Development initiatives are designed to enhance the Cook Islands Tourism product with a primary focus on event development and tourism related infrastructure. Destination Development will also encourage tourism related educational, hospitality, environmental and cultural initiatives.

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation Destination Development Committee seeks expressions of interest from interested parties to submit proposals to:

- Develop a suite of suitable events (individual or a series) designed to improve the economic impact of tourism and enhance visitor experiences. Event Development will focus on marketable events that stimulate visitor arrivals to the Cook Islands particularly during the November to May period and enhance visitor experiences including cultural, sporting and other relevant events.

- Develop tourism related infrastructure. This is designed for visitor convenience and to connect areas of environmental and cultural significance which will improve the economic impact of tourism and enhance visitor experiences. Tourism Related Infrastructure will focus on hiking and walking trails, access to Beaches/Caves/Forests/Lakes etc (viewing platforms, paths and steps, signage etc), historical sites, and public toilets and amenities (shelters, rest areas, tables and chairs, BBQ facilities etc).

- Develop tourism related education and training. Education and Training Providers will be tasked with delivery of the courses and achieving targeted pass rates and numbers of graduates for both Rarotonga and the sister islands. Tourism Education and Training investment will take place in the following areas; Secondary level – NCEA Tourism courses; Vocational level – WTTO standard Tourism and Hospitality Courses; Other Tertiary levels – Tourism courses at certificate, diploma or degree level etc.

Proposals will be assessed where applicable on the strength of a business and project delivery / management plan. Emphasis is placed on a projects return on investment (ROI) calculated by increased visitor arrivals, improved length of stay and increased related spend, and enhanced and expanded visitor experiences. Proposals will be further assessed by their appeal, engagement of the community, partner resourcing, delivery team expertise and experience, and future sustainability.

It is also imperative that these proposals tie in with existing Cook Islands Tourism marketing strategies.

A detailed EOI guide for each project area and a submission and assessment template is available to download via the Cook Islands Tourism website. All EOI submissions close 20 June 2013.

www.cookislands.travel/DestinationDevelopment

The Destination Development Strategy and related initiatives are supported by NZAID. For more information contact Noeline Mateariki, Destination Development Coordinator, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation via noeline.mateariki@cookislands.gov.ck





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THURSDAY 2 MAY — 7PM NATIONAL AUDITORIUM

FOR YOUR TICKET ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT ODILE URIRAU, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE 20725 EXT; 213. NOTE: FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE ON NIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held:

Date: Thursday 9th May 2013
Venue: Café Salsa
Time: 5.00 p.m.

- Agenda:**
1. General Business and mix and mingle with Business Mentors
 2. Guest Speaker the Hon Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition and the Democratic Party
- Topic : Economic Development in the Cook Islands**

All Chamber Members and intending members are welcome

For further information, please contact the Chamber
 Phone 20 925 E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck

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TUATUA KAINGĀKAI (TABLE TALK)

Kia Orāna, tei konei mātou i te ngutu`are o Pāpā No`o, no te mea kua patī mai a Pāpā `iā mātou pouroa kia aere mai ki tōna ngutuare kia kaikai kāpipiti ma tōna kōpū-tangata, `ē pērā katoa i te `akaepaepa i te rā `ānau`anga o tāna mokopuna `iā Noema.

Hello, we are here at Pāpā No`o's home, because he has invited all of us to his home to join and have dinner with his family, and also to celebrate his grandson Noema's birthday.

Aue taue...! `E matepongi tikāi au i tēia taime.

`Aere mai! ka `aere tātou ki roto i te `are, tē kāpiki mai ra `a Pāpā i te kātōtoa kia `aere atu *Gosh...! I am now very hungry.*

Come! we will go inside the house, Pāpā is calling everyone to come.

T. Hmm, `ākara`anga reka tikāi te kai...

M. Tiaki kia tongi koe. `Ea`a tā`au kai reka?

T. E reka ana au i te ika-mata

P. `E ika-mata tā-`akari tā tātou, `e kūmara. te taro, te pā`ua, `ē te maniota oro

M. (kia Noema) Te manako nei au ē, `e reka ana koe i te varaoa punupunu?

N. Oo.. i te taime e 14 ōku mataiti, i teia nei `e 15 `ōku mata`iti

M. `□e `oki!

T. Ka inangaro au i te tongi i te au kai kātōtoa!

E. E reka ana au i te poke, `ea`a tērā?

M. `E pā`ua tā-`akari, `e reka tikāi.

Kā pure `a Pāpā No`o i te kai - Pāpā No`o says the grace

P. I teia nei ka kaikai tātou

T. *Hmm, the food looks great*

M. *Wait until you taste it. What is your favourite food?*

T. *I like raw-fish*

P. *We have raw-fish, kūmara, taro, the clams, and arrowroot bread*

M. (to Noema) *I thought your favourite was hamburgers?*

N. *Oo...Thats when I was fourteen, now that I am fifteen...*

M. *Yeah right!*

T. *Well, I would like to try everything!*

E. *I like poke, what is that?*

M. *Its clam in coconut sauce, its yummy*

P. *Now lets eat*

Kua kaikai te kātōtoa `ē kua mataora pouroa i te kai. E maata katoa te puka mataora i runga i te kaingākai i te tuātau kaikai.

Everyone ate and all enjoyed the food. Much happy conversation was shared on the table as they ate.

Kua `akameitaki a Pāpā No`o i te kātōtoa no tei aere mai ki te rā `ānau`anga o Noema, `ē pērā katoa no tā rātou au apinga aroa i `apai mai.

Pāpā No`o thanked everyone that came to Noema's birthday celebration and also for the presents they brought.

K□TOATOA Kia manuia koe i tō`ou rā `ānau`anga!

ALL *Happy birthday to you!*



Appreciating God's goodness

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 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

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

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!



**Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR)
Project Manager & Pearl Biologist**

Applications are invited for two project positions funded under the EU-SPC Global Climate Change Alliance project implemented by the MMR. The project aims to improve the resilience of pearl farming and inshore fisheries to climate change, focusing on vulnerable atolls of the Cook Islands.

(2) Project Manager: based in Rarotonga with responsibility for overseeing the daily work program and including:

- Administration and coordination of project related activities.
- Communication tools and public awareness strategies for stakeholders.
- Feasibility studies of future livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities.
- Resource management plans and compliance structures.
- Special projects as directed by the Secretary.

(1) Pearl Biologist: based in Manihiki, with the responsibility for monitoring of pearl farming activities and providing technical advice:

- Multi-disciplinary climate related sciences, coral reef monitoring, GIS surveys, water quality, coastal hydrology and oceanography and pearl biology.
- Advising pearl farmers on environmental management and husbandry practices.
- Participate in public awareness programs, training and outreach, liaison as needed.
- Special projects as directed by the Secretary.

This position will be for a 2 year term contract basis. Please contact Uirangi Bishop for further information and a job description, email: U.Bishop@mmr.gov.ck, Ph 28730. Provide a CV with the completed application, addressed to the Secretary, P.O Box 85, Rarotonga, email: rar@mmr.gov.ck. Applications close on Monday 20th May 2013.

Avarua CICC Prize giving

By Norma Ngatamariki

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon, and I was enjoying my usual Sunday feast when all of a sudden my phone went Bleep, Bleep. I looked at the text message solemnly. It said that all of the Ruatonga Mapu was to be expected at the Sinai Hall, preferably before 4pm (but, knowing me, I run on island time) and we were to wear our green uniform. I already had something planned later on that afternoon, but I would have to improvise and reschedule. I wouldn't miss this Prize giving for anything.

Naturally, I got ready at around 3:30pm. After all, I didn't want to arrive early enough that I had to sit around and wait for something to happen, but I didn't want to arrive late and miss out on everything. So I timed myself carefully. When I arrived, they had already started the Worship singing, which was quite lovely. I joined in enthusiastically,

clapping and doing my best to sing the words of the unknown song. It looked cool, the whole crowd swaying to the rhythm of the music. I realized that I was proud of myself for participating in the church performances.

As expected, my friends arrived just after I did. I reckoned we looked kinda awesome, because it was just our little patch of green in the Hall. I was really anxious to hear about the results, but there were things to get through first. I was told that we would perform our creative dance as part of the entertainment. I got a bit (just a bit!) nervous, because I didn't really know the candle dance (one of the many highlights for our performances). "Have no fear!" said Mem, one of our youth leaders. She would lead us on the stage. Phew!

After a splendid encore, we exited the stage with grace. Following our kick-butt performance, it was

time for the announcing of the placings for Choir and Imene Tuki. I crossed my fingers on the Choir one, praying for a good result. We came 4th. I'm not complaining, but I couldn't help but feel a tad bit disappointed. Avatiu took out first place for the Choir. The next one to be announced was the Imene Tuki. Surprisingly, Ruatonga came third in that category, while Maraerenga came first. Then we had Avatiu for their choir, which was beautifully sung. Afterwards, the results for the Creative Dance and Musical Drama were announced. The Creative Dance went to Takuvaine and the Musical Drama went to Avatiu. Congratulations to all the villages that participated! We all did great, guys.

We were all waiting for the overall winners to be declared. The entire hall went silent as the speaker got up and announced the results. Ruatonga and Takuvaine



were tied in for third placing, Avatiu came in second and Maraerenga rolled in at first, claiming the pretty trophy for their own. We all gave applause and I was...content with our placing. The fruits of our labor had finally paid off and our placing wasn't bad, for just one week of practice. A kaikai followed afterwards and everyone went home with a smile on their faces.

Things to do on a tiny island

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield



I am didn't think about that. So this can be future reference for next holidays. Being on an island that is surrounded by water and is only 31km around there is a very limited amount of things you can do. The most obvious choice would be to go to the beach but after a while you get sick of the stickiness of the salt water, the sand in your hair and hot blearing sun on your body. Other things you can do is go to the waterslide, and after that you can go to the beach or try and have a swim at the Rarotongan.

Try find a job, I know that can be boring but your making money and you can do whatever you want to do with it. Plus it takes up your time and gives you something to do. If you're worried about not having time to chill with friends or watch TV, try and get a part time job, like me.

Most parents including mine think that just because we have school holidays on it means that we have to clean the house and do a long list of chores. They think when I say "I'm bored" it means that I'll actually clean. In their eyes if you're ever bored, just clean. They make it sound like it's so much fun. If your parents are like mine just try to do the bare minimum, for example if they tell you to clean the windows just do one quick wipe. If they tell you to clean your room just stuff everything under the bed or in your drawers.

Other things to do while being on holidays is go the library (well that's if you like to read like me). The library is one of my favourite places. It's the only place I can get any peace and quiet. Or if you like your TV like me, just spend your days watching TV while

eating food. Only downside to that is that you'll probably put on a few kilos (like me). If you're really stuck on what to do while on holidays, you can always try be creative and write a story, draw, write a poem. One of the things I do every holidays is visit the Sheraton. If you have never been there you should go! It's like walking through another world. Some people think that the graffiti is vandalism but I personally think it's beautiful (well some of it at least). There are some amazing pieces of art work on the walls. Every time you go there, there is always something different. It always amazes me that there are people out there with so much talent. There isn't much else to do on such a tiny island but as long as you've got a TV or friends you'll be fine.

As the school holidays come near to an end I have now decided to write about all the fun things you can do while being on school holidays. I know it would have been more appropriate if I wrote it at the beginning but me being the smart person that

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

got water? Do your part, be water smart!

UN WATER World Water Day 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation

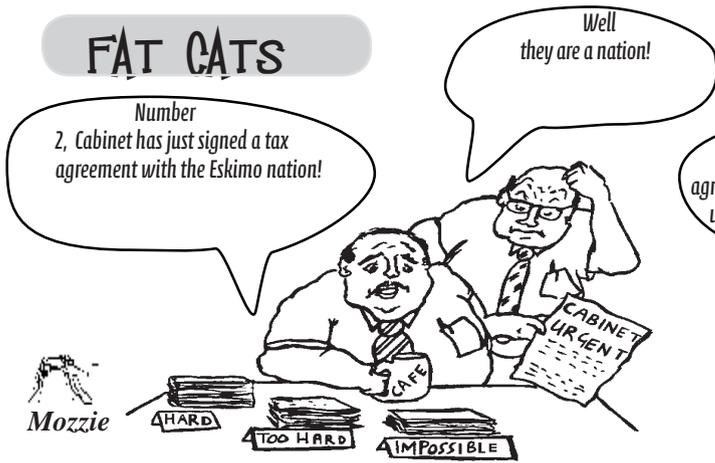
Every DROP counts

OFF THE TAP!!

WATER EMERGENCY PHONES: Ph55-663 W3 Ph54-097 W4 Ph54-017 Office Ph20-321

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Here's a message for you on the CIP executive-people, you worked so hard to get hold of the Treasury benches and now the fuss over taxing NZ Super is going to ruin the Party's chances at the next election! Use your brains people! Don't upset the oldies! Remember, half the people in the outer islands are pensioners! That's a big voting bloc people! Not all will be on NZ Super but all will sympathize with their fellow pensioners!



During this period of drought, old Tar, like umpteen others, has drinking water stored in whatever empty bottles he can lay his mitts on. Wanting a shot of caffeine the other day, old Tar grabs a bottle from the fridge and makes a coffee but it tastes much like Vinegar! It wasn't water in that bottle! It was in fact White Vinegar!



For the second year in a row, the PM was not at the ANZAC Day events. He was overseas. Taking his place yet again, was DPM Tom Tom. Last year Tom Tom insisted on being referred to as the Acting PM although the PM was still in country-Manihiki. Will the PM be absent next year and therefore make it three years in a row? You know what they say in baseball-three strikes and you're out!



Oh dear chooks! With work already well underway on digging up the roads for upgrading the water system, why is government (MFEM and not MOIP)

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



now advertising for a consultant to come up with a water plan including plans for new water storage facilities and treatment? Hasn't that already been done? Did not the gallant Chinese engineers saunter up into the hills for a nosey, come back and submit plans for upgrading the water intakes? So work was started before a plan was approved? And were not the Chinese supposed to supply most of the labour force? Look at the job our lads have done on the roads so far! Now this will be put out to tender! Is this the reason the MOIP Minister could not release the drawings done by the Chinese of improvements to the water intakes? MFEM have the last say? Or was it the real Prime Minister-John Carter!



Patrons in a well known eatery one Saturday morning recently expressed surprise when the road works started up and the heavy machinery gave rise to great clouds of dust! Surprise because people were eating at the time and who wants dust with their meals?



Big cruise liner two Sundays ago and

hundreds of tourists were roaming the empty streets looking for something that was open for business! Locals say, come on a Saturday!



Local chooks drives to Telecom, parks his iron horse and rushes in to pay the man! He comes out, thinks it's a fine sunny day, so walks the short distance back to work! After several hours slaving, he wonders where the heck his bike is! Stolen from under his nose? Nope! It's still at telecom! Rushing back, he was just in time to retrieve it before the local Constabulary had it hauled back to their base. Someone had reported a strange, suspicious looking bike parked outside Telecom for the last few hours!



When you're on a manually powered push bike and a diesel powered pick-up is heading your way, one chook on a bike discovered the best advice is to get out of the way-and quick! Local chook discovered this advice after the pick-up ran over her bike, bending one of the wheels!



What was a highly paid specialist

from Environment Service doing on Wednesday morning, driving his bike along the footpath outside the Empire? The answer is simple, he was carrying out an assessment of the footpath for dangerous pathogens, bacteria, bird flu and climate change effects on the footpath that may endanger cinema goers! He was also searching for environmentally unsafe pollutants that may flow off the footpath and into the nearby creek!



Notice of a jobbie at Marine in the daily papyrus last Friday, April 26, gave April 10 as the closing date for applications! What's more, one the Supreme Head position was said to be up for the period 2013 to 2015 when it should have been 2016!



And this report just in over CNN-Coconut Network News- "Had to be seen to be believed. Former head rooster of Aitutaki, the memory deficient Tai Herman was seen caddying for Elvis Puna the great pretender on the Aitutaki golf course. Crow about keeping it all in the family."

Cook Islands
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VACANCIES



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT**

**Manager, Development Co-ordination Division
(Closing Date Extended)**

This senior role of Development Co-ordination Division Manager (formerly known as Aid Management Division or AMD) heads the Development Co-ordination Division (DCD) within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. The Manager will be responsible for providing operational leadership in national co-ordination of aid related activities across the Cook Islands. This is excellent opportunity for an experienced manager to be involved in programmes of national importance, driving improved outcomes for the progression of the Cook Islands. The Manager will be responsible for effective co-ordination support to key national authorities, development partners and implementing agencies. This is achieved through strengthened secretarial services, sound financial management, robust information management systems, quality policy advice and effective monitoring and reporting on all ODA activities and funding mechanisms.

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- A minimum of ten years relevant senior public sector management experience including a combination of the following:
- Policy development, implementation and monitoring
- Development and aid effectiveness related mandates
- Strategic programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Substantial management and planning skills and experience with demonstrated ability to develop and manage partnerships with donors, government counterparts, the private sector and civil society
- Previous experience in identifying and mobilising resources in international development context
- Proven team leadership skills with a performance and results focus
- Strong analytical skills with demonstrated ability to analyse, interpret and make sound judgements

Develop Co-ordination is a dynamic, changing environment with a focus on outcomes and delivery. We offer flexibility and a team atmosphere where your professional development is taken seriously.

To apply for this position, or to view a position description, please go to the government website using this link: <http://www.mfem.gov.ck> or send your CV and covering letter to: Etuatina. Drollett@cookislands.gov.ck

Applicants must address in their application the skills, knowledge and competencies as listed in the Position Description.

The Closing Date for acceptance of applications has been extended to 4pm Friday 3 May 2013 to provide sufficient time to allow more candidates to submit their applications.

VACANCIES



MARKETING SUPPORT OFFICER

Join the dynamic hardworking team at Cook Islands Tourism Corporation! With the mandate to lead the nation in tourism, destination development and marketing, our team is looking for a bright, energetic, passionate individual to make a difference and help cultivate continued success in this economic sector.

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation invites applications for the position of Marketing Support Officer. The successful applicant will be reporting to the Director of Sales & Marketing and will be required to provide and deliver an efficient support system to the sales and marketing team.

Applicants must have the following expertise:

- experience in Tourism sales and marketing
- have excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- multi-task and able to manage many projects at one time
- have sound knowledge of general office and administrative procedures
- have excellent organisational skills and ability to prioritise work and meet tight deadlines
- have sound knowledge of the industry, activities and service personnel
- have advanced knowledge in the use of Office software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access

A detailed Terms of Reference is available at www.cookislands.travel/jobs

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Executive Assistant, PO Box 14, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Rarotonga or emailed to applications@cookislands.gov.ck Applications close 4pm, Thursday 2 May February 2013.



**SITUATIONS VACANT
MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES (MMR)
DIRECTOR, POLICY & LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Applications are invited for the above position to:

1. assist in policy development providing for sustainable management of marine resources and a vibrant marine sector;
2. advising on legal matters including legislation, fisheries prosecutions, negotiations and contracts;
3. develop partnerships with communities, industry, and regional and international organisations;
4. manage the Policy and Legal Services Division;

This is a senior position, reporting directly to the Secretary with challenging roles and responsibilities. Applicants should have tertiary qualifications in legal, public administration, resource management or relevant fields.

Please contact Uirangi Bishop for a job description, U.Bishop@mnr.gov.ck), telephone 28730. Address application and CV to: The Secretary, Ministry of Marine Resources, P.O Box 85, Tutakimoa. Closing date is 4:00 pm. Friday 3rd May, 2013.

VACANCY



**GOVERNMENT VACANCY SECRETARY
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS**

The Office of the Public Service Commissioner invites applications for the following Heads of Department positions:

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Secretary of Marine Resources
Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP)
Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Public Service Commissioner

The Secretary as the Executive Head of each Department will need to champion innovation in service delivery while efficiently and effectively delivering each Department's functions towards achieving the vision of the Public Service in "Public Service of Excellence".

The term of employment commences 01 July 2013 up to the end of June 2015. Applicants will be required to have a management or relevant Degree and over 5 years senior management experience (leading an organization, division & staff) at the minimum.

The application form which can be downloaded from the OPSC website www.psc.gov.ck and must be fully completed and received prior to 4:00pm, Friday 10 May 2013 with a covering letter, indicating the skills and qualities you bring to the Position and a copy of your CV.

Address applications to:
Public Service Commissioner
Re: (position applied)
P.O. Box 24
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

You may apply via email submitting your application in pdf format to rangi@psc.gov.ck



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS**

Vacancies exist in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management in the Statistics Division for a Statistics Officer and Statistics Clerk. Key duties will be the collection of statistical information by way of surveys, censuses and administrative records and the processing and dissemination of this information using in-house built systems or MS Access and Excel.

Job descriptions are available on our website www.mfem.gov.ck under vacancies or call in to our office and pickup a copy. Applications can be sent to Ministry of Finance, Statistics Division PO Box 41, Avarua or hand delivered to our office in Avarua or email to vacancy@cookislands.gov.ck. Applications are to be received by close of business on Friday 10 May 2013.

TENDER



The Government of the Cook Islands is embarking on a multimillion dollar upgrade of the water supply system on Rarotonga, with the goal of "delivering potable water, reliably, to all properties connected to the existing water supply network, by 2015". The CI Government has formed "Te Mato Vai" – the Cook Islands Water Partnership with the governments of the People's Republic of China and New Zealand to fund the upgrade.

The Water Supply upgrade will involve rehabilitation of water intakes, creation of additional storage capacity, construction of treatment plants and replacement of all trunk mains, ring mains and local distribution to the boundaries of all properties served by the current network.

The project will involve a number of requests for proposals for different elements of the upgrade. The Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) invites responses to this request for proposals (RFP) in relation to two projects, namely: (1) developing a Water Supply Master Plan for Rarotonga; and (2) establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU).

Proposers may submit proposals for either or both the Master Plan and PMU projects.

A hard copy of the tender document including specifications can be collected during work hours from the MFEM/DCD office in Avarua. For hard copies of the RFP, a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per copy is to be paid prior to the receiving of the RFP, this fee does not apply to electronic copies of the RFP.

Electronic copies of the RFP are available from the following website for this tender. Notices to tenderers and any further documentation or information in regard to this tender will also be issued via this website: <https://apmtools.mwhtools.com/sites/ciwp/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

If you wish to receive the notices and any further documentation issued for this tender you will need to be registered to gain access to the website. To do this you must request a log-in through the website or respond to this email: Peter.s.white@nz.mwhglobal.com, providing the following information:

- Contact name
- Email address
- Company name
- Company office address

You will then be forwarded a username and password that will allow you access to the tender website. Only one username and password will be provided for any one company. You will then be advised by email when any additional information or notices are posted, and will be able to download these directly from the tender website. Written requests for further information or clarification may be submitted to the tender website. These requests will not be accessible to other Proposers but responses may be sent to all Proposers in line with the conditions of the Request for Proposal.

Tenders close at 3pm on 24 May 2013 (Cook Island Time), and must be submitted to the MFEM office in Avarua. Tenders must be submitted in hard copy inside a sealed envelope addressed to: Financial Secretary

Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
PO Box 120, Rarotonga
and clearly marked with "Te Mato Vai – Rarotonga water upgrade (TMV001/13)" and the Proposer's name.

Enquiries to: Peter White
Contract Lead, MWH NZ Ltd
Email: Peter.s.white@nz.mwhglobal.com
Phone: +64 (0)3 474 3994 F +64 (0)3 477 0616

