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21 May 2013

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Budget process reflects our strength

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

My Government's third budget is nearing completion and by the end of this week, we expect to indicate how our priorities for the next financial year will be supported by strengthened policies and a concerted push to deliver on our goals for the benefit of our people.

I would like to reiterate from the outset that this year has been especially robust and challenging in terms of establishing a clear process for the annual budget. The benchmark for discussions and negotiations on resourcing our future direction has now been well-established by the Cabinet team and all our stakeholder senior officials.

There's no denying that we have set new levels of cooperation, which call for much more informed talks and collaboration on priorities. Our budget process is representative of our strength as an administration.

There's also no denying that we are facing particularly challenging times – both internally and as a result of broader trends and influences that impact upon our capacity and capability to progress in the way we want to. All around us, other countries are experiencing hardship and difficulty in meeting the demands of financial constraints and shortfalls. You would be hard-pressed



PM opening this week's Nansen Initiative Pacific Consultation at the Edgewater Resort

to find a government anywhere in the world that is not struggling with the threat of a deficit budget, at some point.

Thankfully, we are tied to very strong principles of fiscal responsibility and will present our national budget for 2013/2014 with an underlying surplus.

Like all budgets, the process requires a lot of hard work. But we have negotiated our way through a balancing of what we must do, what we want to do, and what we can do – with what we have. On a basic level, we will achieve all we can with the resources available to us so that we can provide our people with the means they need.

Not surprisingly, Health and Education remain the most important pillars of our social commitments and Government will be announcing continued support and strengthening of our professionals in these areas. I am also pleased that the elderly will be of special attention with an improved level of funding in the next budget.

Next year, further investments in infrastructure are both necessary and important to our economic platform going forward. The key drivers of our economy – Tourism and Marine Resources – are important components in our growth and the budget process has recognised these

areas as vital sectors for strengthening.

While the constraints on our resources are likely to be felt into the forthcoming months, we shall remain committed to exercising the utmost responsibility in managing our way forward. We do have a number of obligations to contend with in terms of our liabilities and in due course, Government will make a point of ensuring that there is clarity and transparency to these commitments, as part of our public comments.

The positive outlook is that Government is steadfast in providing the necessary tools and implementing the policies that will benefit all our people – in the near and long term.

High Noon is nigh for the Government

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Every entity has their high noon – a moment of reckoning. It appears that the Government's high noon is very near. That moment could result in the people of the Cook Islands saying that we will have nothing to do with it anymore. Enough is enough, they would say. Let's vote in the Democratic Party under Papa Wilkie Rasmussen. Alright, I might be letting my imagination run wild but in several weeks the Government will introduce its 2013/14 budget to Parliament for approval. I surely believe this will be the sealing of the Government's fate. It will be its death in the gallows and banishment from the halls of power.

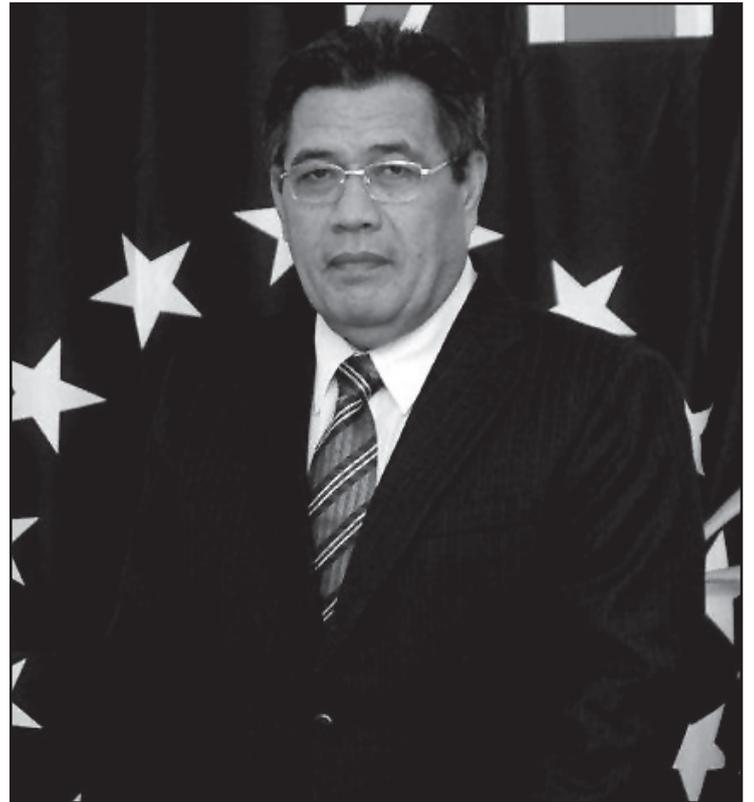
A couple of nights, I watched the Cook Islands Television News and saw an item on the budget preparations and the response of Cabinet to the Richard Neves and Minister Mark Brown's concoction. The ever affable Minister of Finance certainly put on a brave face and said without blinking that "this budget will be a very challenging one. We are funding according to priorities". He also said, "There were some things we considered previously which not being a priority in this budget will be pushed to later budgets." The first thing that came to my mind when he said those words was that this is not going to be a good budget. In other words there is not enough money. Well, I don't have to be a rocket scientist to make that observation. Other people who saw the TV item came to the same conclusion.

What was more interesting was my wife's observation. She said to me, "Look at the body language and facial expressions of Deputy Prime Minister Tom Marsters and Minister Nandi Glassie". I did and they were not too pleased (so it seems) with what they were hearing from Secretary of Finance Richard Neves. I could be wrong; perhaps DPM

Marsters was worried about the possibility of losing his Murienua constituency seat in the pending by-election to the Democratic Party candidate, well known and self-made businessman James Beer. Much mistreated by his leader Henry Puna the DPM will be resigning from Parliament soon to take up the next country's Queens Representative's position. As for Nandi Glassie, the frown and somber look on his face could be brought about by the fact that his Achilles heel, the infinite Norman George could be rummaging through Glassie's electorate with determination to oust the Minister as MP.

Well, the trials and tribulations of politics, eh! One thing I have leaned in politics and it has now become part of my instincts and that is if there is smoke, there is fire. For some time now, followers of the budget process has predicted the next Government budget to be a bleak and horrific one. It is not going to be about economic initiatives, nor is it about strengthening the public service or reducing interest rates. It is also not going to be about cutting down on Government costs and expenditure; instead it is about spending more from heavy borrowings which shackles the taxpayers of this country by the neck for many, many years to come. That is why I say that the moment is near where the voting public will get to the point of no return. I have had my ear to the ground and have heard many say, this lot has to go. I have also heard them cry foul for believing them in the last election. I know for a fact that the Government has missed the point of turning things around. With only a year and months to the next election, their comeuppance has arrived.

My and wife' along with the Democratic Party's sincere condolences to former Demo

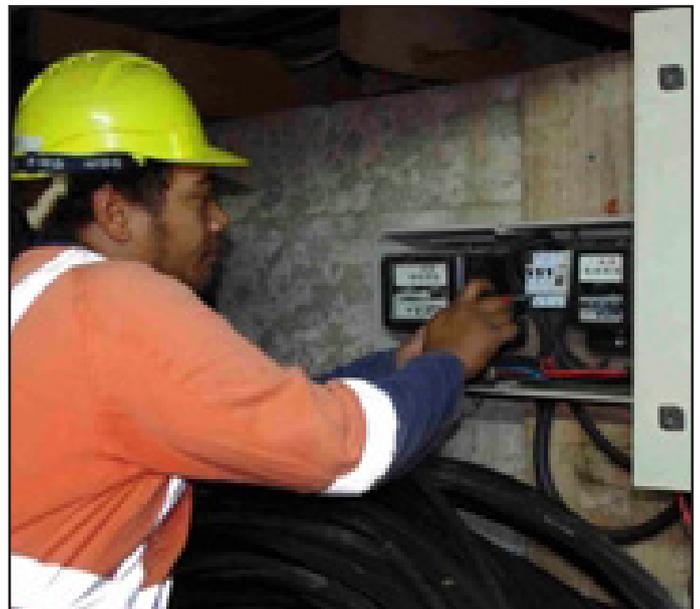


MP Mama Ngai Tupa and family and Tupapa-Maraerenga along for the loss of her husband with his wife Mama Ngai, the Papa Tupa Tupa. This Papa "mother of everyone". Ka kite in was a lynchpin of Takuvaine the next column.



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Chinese business has Licence revoked



Coinsave's Arorangi outlet is without signage but open for business.

By George Pitt

Much to the relief of some local retailers the controversial Coinsave outlet in Arorangi has had its trading licence revoked by the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB).

Samoa based Chinese national Teeking Weng the owner of seven Coinsave retail outlets and a restaurant was seeking to replicate his business in the Cook Islands.

Arriving here in August 2012, Weng rented space in the Taio shopping complex in Arorangi. The content of one of his three 40 foot containers was unloaded to stock the shop ready for the Christmas shopping spree.

Weng had an introduction with the Deputy Prime Minister Tom Marsters but was unable to establish a desired possible connection other than to be advised by Marsters to engage a lawyer to process his business intentions. Weng's initial legal contact referred him to lawyer Brian Mason who is also a Board member of CITC.

Weng for some unknown reason did not proceed guided by the legal advice he paid \$2000 for, (by his own admission) had he done so, his current predicament would have been avoided.

Weng had everything in place ready to open the doors for business before he had filed an

application to the BTIB. Weng's activities did not go unnoticed by local retailers of similar business who mounted a media protest as well as demanding the Minister of BTIB to intervene and protect their interests.

Despite the advice from Samoan friends in Samoa that establishing a foreign business in the Cook Islands was more regulated and that Weng ought to be compliant and observe investment protocol, he stubbornly presumed he could simulate his business practise in the Cook Islands.

When Weng decided to follow the correct procedures and made an application on 16th November 2012 to obtain a business licence from BTIB, it was declined on the 29th November on the basis general merchandise retailing was a business category reserved for Cook Islanders.

Weng's unwillingness to include local participation and the bombastic manner in which he attempted to start the business also counted against him.

The persistent Chinaman replied to his declined application with a request to open temporarily to offset his costs. The BTIB reluctantly issued Weng a temporary licence to sell his goods only to local retail businesses by appointment, this ended on the 22nd February

2013. To the disappointment of BTIB Weng didn't do anything.

When offered some cost recovery options, Weng gave the impression he was insulted and continued to forge ahead refusing to accept one person couldn't make him a favourable deal. When Weng in desperation placed a sizeable cash incentive before a government employee, to his disbelief it was refused without hesitation.

In the meantime, the landlord Tapi Taio was becoming concerned as he had made \$10,000 of alterations to the building at the new tenant's request and outstanding rent was mounting.

Weng then sought an extension of twelve months and Immigration's approval to import two workers from Samoa to manage the business as they were familiar with his business operations.

In March 2013 the twelve month period was declined for a month to month reviewable provision with BTIB monitoring compliance with the view of permitting an extension. The immigration request was approved and the two Samoa staff members arrived.

Coinsave finally opened for business in late March but soon began diverting from the conditions of their licence after efforts to interest retailers was passive. They openly breached

their wholesale licence and began operating as a retailer. Newspaper advertising offering 50% discounts failed to stimulate any public response.

With a reduced staff the BTIB was limited in resources for monitoring Coinsave's compliance, but suspected the business was in breach of their conditions. This was confirmed when some retailers and members of the public soon registered their objections of Coinsave's transgressions to the BTIB by phone and in writing.

At a Board meeting on 30th April Weng's temporary business licence was revoked. The Development Investment Act 1996 gives the notified business twenty one days to reply to the revocation. If the BTIB are unmoved by the reply, or no response is received, then a further notice confirming the revocation is issued with an order to cease operating and a reasonable time by which they must leave the Country.

Coinsave's business licence was revoked because Weng failed to comply with the terms of conditions of approval.

Had Weng followed Mason's advice and operated his business within the conditions issued by the BTIB his temporary licence would have been favourably considered for permanent approval as a wholesaler.

No Coronation for Weng the Wannabe Emperor

By George Pitt

For those familiar with Chinese business practices (Which are not but should be taught in a Masters of Business Administration course) will understand what was driving Teeking Weng.

The Cook Islands is a new frontier for commercial investment by the Chinese which is a sought after opportunity. Initially the Chinese Government develops a relationship with States that accept the One China policy; this gradually opens the door for China funded projects to be awarded to those Countries. Eventually the relationship paves the way for Chinese investors to engage with Governments.

This is the high end layer that the Minister of Marine Resources Teina Bishop's favoured Luen Thai Fishing Company does business. They are guided by sophisticated and complex codes of practise that includes high level political connectivity at both ends.

The layer or level at which Weng operates is a follow on entry at the lower end of the pecking order but profitable never the less. Weng is a front man for investors in distant China. He is eager to impress and prove his commercial worth enhancing his prospects of being promoted

to a more prestigious business location or position overseas or back in China.

Rather than maintain the patience and flexibility to massage his presence in establishing his business legitimately Weng's greed motivated him to do the opposite. His decisions are rushed and unwise.

The first through the door has the undisputed advantage of becoming the 'emperor' so to speak. All other Chinese businesses that follow to the new frontier are processed through the conduit emperor. As more arrive and become established, a society within a society evolves

that is governed by a set of rules they subject themselves to.

It becomes their version of the Chamber of Commerce with a pyramidal organisational structure with the emperor at the head. This was the position Weng was aspiring to. The more Chinese funded businesses that are established the greater the status and the wealth of the emperor.

Political friendships are forged for continuity and sustainability of things relative to Chinese interests.

Weng's dismal failure is a loss of face that is irreparable. How he will explain this to his fiscal

backers in China is anyone's guess, but it's certain he'll receive the sternest reprimand.

The Chinese have learnt to be unobtrusive and discerning of indigenous tolerance to their presence.

The Politicians and BTIB ought to seriously consider the advice of Cook Islander Rohan Ellis, the former China based Pacific Trade Commissioner for six years, who advocates the engaging of Chinese investors at the high end but warns to refuse the approval of micro businesses owned by Chinese interests. Chinese workers yes, but Chinese ownership, no!



Flooding at Tukao School Manihiki. Story on page 17.

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Cabinet trimming Ministry wish lists



Ministers considering the funding for Vote: Internal Affairs on Monday. L to R: Nandi Glassie, Teina Bishop and DPM Tom Marsters.

Taking a quick break from Cabinet's deliberations on the Budget on Monday, Finance Minister Mark Brown told the media this year's budget will be a more challenging one as there are a number of proposals for funding initiatives which far exceed available funds.

Brown said the budget team was approaching it in the same way as government did in their first budget and that's to

prioritize and fund what can be afforded this year and push out other funding initiatives over the next few budgets.

Since December, the Minister announced the Budget Policy Statement followed by the compiling of business plans from each of the Ministries HOM's for this financial year, then in February till the end of April, the Budget Support Group reviewed all the business

plans and interviewed all HOM's to produce a report that was presented to Cabinet.

Over the last 2 weeks, the Minister said he has been going over the recommendations by the Budget Support Group to see what can be funded by prioritizing projects and initiatives, now, said Brown, Cabinet was in the final stages of approving the final allocation of funding resources and it's

hoping the budget will be tabled in the 1st week of June.

Sources outside Cabinet have told the Herald Cabinet is grappling with a \$200,000 deficit in the operations budget and that it looks like Minister's support offices will also face cuts to their budget of around \$75,000. Being considered is a further reduction in Ministry budgets of around 5 per cent.

Cabinet is yet to consider Capital spending and Aid funding.



During Monday's Cabinet deliberations on Vote Internal Affairs. L to R: Finance Minister Mark Brown, HOM Bredina Drollet, Teariki Heather and PSC Russell Thomas.

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Name and Shame reporting a disgrace

By George Pitt

The owners of the daily dribble might well be advised to step in with urgency and exert editorial control over the flagging paper. Already under public suffrance, the paper's diminished credibility and sinking integrity show signs of only sinking further into the mire.

But it's going to take some doing. On the one hand there are so many boring stories that attract few readers. And then there's the drummed up sensationalising of issues to arouse public concern rather than because of public concern (like the Heather vehicle nonsense) in an effort to stem sagging sales. Here's the problem. Readers are deserting the once proud paper over issues of poor media standards and ethics being over ridden by commercial desperation. It's also little wonder advertisers are falling by the way side or going elsewhere for concerns of being tainted through association.

The obvious trend that now characterises the CI News was introduced along with its babysitting Editor, the longer her tenure unfolded; the once blurred trait has gradually become a focused identity with sharp clarity in the daily's publishing recipe.

The turning point for discerning readers came when Norman George got a media roasting in a front page lead article. After regularly filling white space in their paper with content grabbing information for free and making a tired looking publication readable and worth the two dollars, the notorious Norman George was given no leeway or benefit of doubt by the daily when he was rebutted by the judiciary over a series of legal manoeuvres played out in the Appeal Court. The CI News latched onto the report and whipped Norm with 39 lashes of editorial opinion blended with the facts.

This shoddy one sided slanderous character assassination reporting when legal proceedings are inconclusive, have followed in disturbingly increasing increments ever since.



The nothing frontpage story as big as its headline.

When taken to task, because of the repeatedly dramatised reporting of Scotty's case to the point of being petty and boring, the CINews blamed the Pitt Media Group for failing to give prominence to the insignificant trial. (Heck, by the up talk and sensationalism you would have thought Scotty had imported a container load of hard drugs, when in fact under persistent cohesion, he was a reluctantly middle man who passed on a couple of joints of low grade local hemp to two undercover cops. They should have been charged with incitement and entrapment!)

Then the stand in editor conveniently shifted the blame to the absent owner Woods who dribbled on about how his paper was fulfilling its responsibilities as the Fourth Estate. Since when did Scotty spend public money or abuse political power? For the record the PMG don't feed off the unfortunate misery of people's lives, no human beings are perfect yet the CINews unashamedly can't wait to step up to the mark and throw the first stone. Now if the self employed hard working taxpaying Scotty was a lazy, self indulging travel addicted politician then that's a different story.

Not happy to leave it at that, the CINews' sadistic thirst for more blood pushed their new money spinning policy of name and shame on to the Wichmans with a front page headliner and photos in case we had forgotten what they looked like.

Disregarding human decency, the obviously gratifying fetish to strip the non - convicted Rakanui symbolically naked in public with a front page photo and story followed.

Deluded they were fastidious in their gross misrepresentation

of being the flag bearer for the Fourth Estate, the CINews imitating a flock of vultures circulating the defenceless, proceeded to venomously hound sports reporter Blakey by outing him publically, more likely because he worked for a rival news outlet rather than for being innocent until found guilty.

How many letters sent to the CINews editor followed that went unpublished until writers threatened to go to another publication? More than five letter writers claim their letters were filed in the rubbish bins at the daily. As is the practise, the CINews stall unfavourable letters till the issue has subsided so its public impact is minimal or forgotten.

Eventually, a single anti name and shame letter, most likely subjected to editing was published.

The front page crowbar treatment of a story about the Grey Power tax debate had a loaded headline and the content repeatedly included emotive words such as 'war' as if it was an ANZAC related scoop. When this questionable reporting was challenged the wording of the fabricated story was blamed on the media uninitiated Grey Power's President Tupe Short who refuted the finger pointing, citing the CINews tried to put the war words in his mouth with loaded questioning.

One letter writer, who questioned the excuses for the delays in publishing a very time sensitive response indicated they would submit their letter of grievance about the CINews to PMG for publication, was advised not to as the CI Herald was an inferior paper, that had very limited circulation and no trained journalists.

For a paper that self

congratulates itself for pushing the media freedom envelope, to discredit and belittle the competition then try and censor information being printed elsewhere is commercial hypocrisy at its shameless worst.

Front page headliners are frequently lacking in news breaking content or of genuine public interest. For example, the front page lead story on Friday 17th May "PM attends fisheries meet" had as many words as the size of space given to its headline. The story was totally insignificant, lacking in substance or relevance to anything resembling public interest, and was more appropriate as a fill in somewhere on page nine.

In fact it had already been published in informative detail two days earlier in the CI Herald on page four making the CI News' promotion of Puna's nothing trip unjustifiable and unworthy of the front page lead story. To short change the public will continue to send the daily dribble into oblivion.

The day old news breaker that Tom Marsters had received the commencing date and confirmation as the new QR, plus the Murienua bye election date and the likely Cabinet replacement was totally missed by the CINews' trained journalists. It was front page on the cutting edge fortnightly Independent magazine the night before on Thursday the 16th May.

The long term reputation damage inflicted upon people that will leave them emotionally scarred simply is not worth the short term cash gain.

The media is a stressful business and unless the CI News owners can quickly implant some business acumen into their current baby sitters there will soon be little left to get stressed over.



Congratulations to woman of the month of May Tai Turua

As we approach the cooler months of the year, we are also pleased to reveal the chosen Woman of the Month, who is none other than the quietly spoken Māmā Tai Turua or Auntie Tai as she is known to most of her community and church friends. Many also would have associated with her during her employment days with CITC Ltd.

Auntie Tai was born Tutai Tamaine TURUA (nee VAIIMENE), on the 6th April 1941 on the island of Mangaia, to parents Te-Vaiimene & Angareu Vaiimene. Raised in Mangaia until her teen she moved to Rarotonga where she lived with her feeding parents Teariki and Heimata Tamarua. She attended Mangaia School and later Avarua School when she came to Rarotonga. While in Rarotonga, she met the man of her life Mata Andrew Turua whom she married at the age of 19. Auntie Tai was blessed with an upbringing that involves extended family, as she and Pāpā Andrew had an open house policy to both their extended families. She and Pāpā Andrew raised five girls – Andrea, Helen (Mama), Maria, Peggy and Nga, two sons Tauu and Francis of her extended family. She has eleven grand children and one great granddaughter. She loves to share her spiritual life with her family but most especially to her grandchildren.

Auntie Tai takes passion in her contribution to all community activities like the Avatiu/Nikao Mongoose Golden Oldies and is also an active member of the Avatiu/Nikao Netball Golden

Oldies. As a Catechist wife, she is very active with her church activities and is a great support of all youth activities and also the St Joseph Girl Guides Company. Most times, Auntie Tai's tremendous contribution to these organizations is behind the scenes where she works in a quiet manner and is happy to do so.

In passing time, Auntie Tai loves to spend times with her grandchildren, her tuitui (embroidering) and her plants. She would often tell her children and mokopuna "...talk to your plants so they will grow beautiful and lovely..." As her tuitui is one of her passions, she would spend hours with the late Auntie Parau Taruia at home or at the Uritaua house. She and Auntie Parau formed the Uritaua Vainetini in the late 1980s into the 1990s and later on joining the Punanga Nui Tuitui Vainetini. Auntie Tai still continues this trend at the Punanga Nui as her day out once a week.

She enjoys attending the Avatiu/Nikao Mongoose Golden Oldies and has on several occasions travelled with the team overseas representing the Cook Islands at the Golden Oldies Rugby. She also has travelled with the Avatiu/Nikao Netball Golden Oldies.

Spiritually, Auntie Tai puts all her trust in God the Father and with her faith, she is very much an active member of the St Joseph's Catholic Parish in Avarua with her life in serving God and thanking Him for the gift of life every day. She is also a member of the St Joseph Cluny



Tai Turua - Woman of the Month of May. Also known to many as Auntie Tai.

Sisters Association of the world. She loves to share her spiritual life with her family but most especially to her grandchildren.

Auntie Tai likes to share with all her most memorable experience when she went on a Europe tour with Ingrid Caffery where she had the opportunity and honour to meet the late Pope John Paul II face to face.

Another memorable moment was when she and the late Auntie Parau and late Auntie Ma'anga swam in the 'Dead Sea' even though there was a sign saying "NO SWIMMING" however

typical Cook Islands women ignored the sign and went in anyway.

With her goals in life, Auntie Tai hopes to continue her planting and tuitui – but most especially to see her grandchildren achieve the goals that they have set themselves.

And importantly to Auntie Tai, it is first and foremost God the Father, her family both immediate and extended and always helping and lending a hand in whatever and whenever she can.

Bless you Auntie Tai...

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The rising status of solar energy

Where are we now with solar energy in Rarotonga? One is off the grid. They rely on solar energy supported by an array of storage batteries for their power needs, and that allows them to be energy independent and do their own thing.

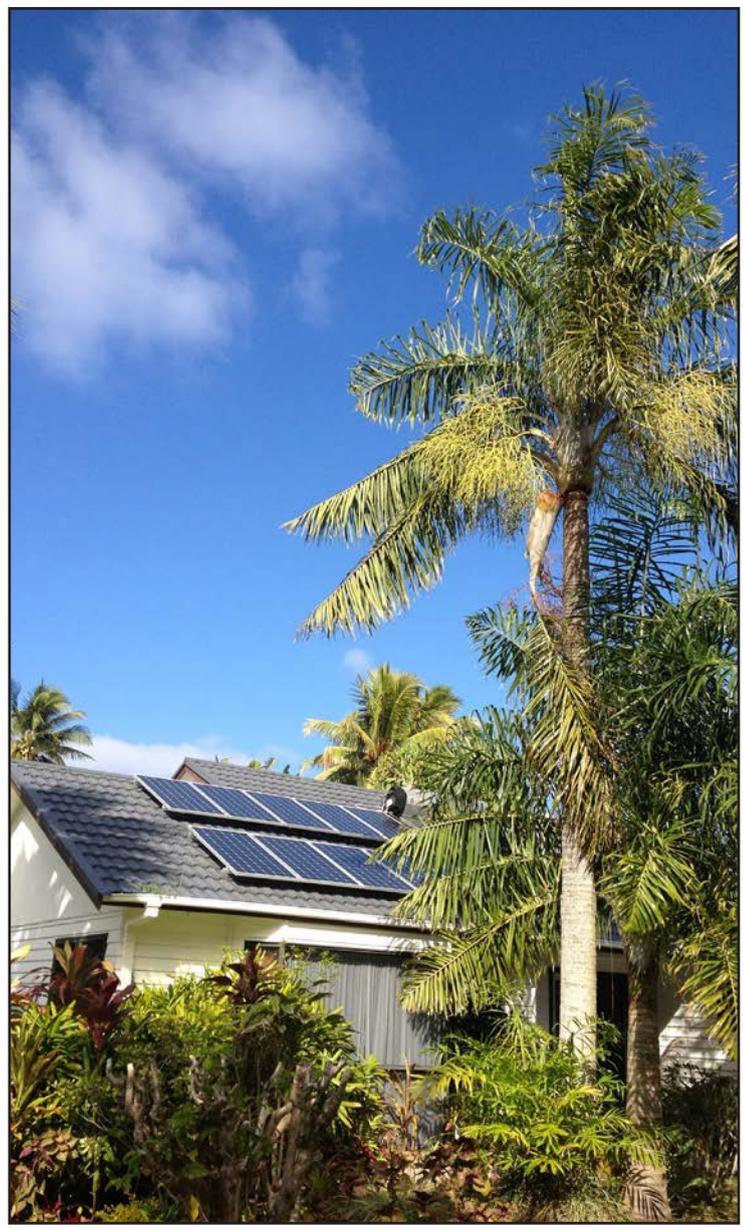
If you drive around Rarotonga today you will see a lot of houses with solar panels sitting on top of their roofs. Those panels help reduce power costs to the owner. That is the general layout for solar on Rarotonga that has grown over the past three years.

Many homes would increase their solar systems (i.e. put up more panels) except TAU restricts the size of the grid-tied systems that can be connected to the power grid. There are good reasons for the restriction including the fact that there is only so much the grid can handle due to the intermittency effect.

You see the characteristic of solar is that it doesn't shine all the time and is subject to fluctuations even when new clouds pass overhead. Too much fluctuating power will create havoc on the grid. And that means TAU can't provide customers a steady supply of reliable good quality power if it were to depend solely on solar (excuse the pun).

So far, there are a few large customers into solar in a really big way. Some are tied to the grid but only use TAU as a backup whenever they can't provide their own power. One is off the grid. They rely on solar energy supported by an array of storage batteries for their power needs, and that allows them to be energy independent and do their own thing. That is the general layout for solar on Rarotonga that has grown over the past three years. The other solar arrays appear on government building rooftops including TAU's own buildings. For TAU, the arrays they own translate into less diesel combustion at the power station and savings passed onto all customers (which contribute to the 5% discount you get for paying your power bill on time).

In the coming 12 months, one can expect to see new solar panel arrays going up on the roofs of three government buildings. Those arrays will be owned, managed and maintained by TAU. Ground mounted arrays will also be installed at two locations, dwarfing the 10kW grid-tied demonstration solar project in the TAU car park area. More on these later.



Residential solar





Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Update

Contractors reach Takuvaive Valley Road



Trenching at Takuvaive Valley road for trunk mains, sub mains and branch mains.

Project City contractors are now on the home stretch having reached Takuvaive Valley Road in sector 4 as of last week. Work includes trenching and laying trunk main, sub-mains, branch mains for the new town water pipelines and are already 300 metres up the road. At the same time, power cables are being laid but that is work undertaken by Te Aponga Uira.

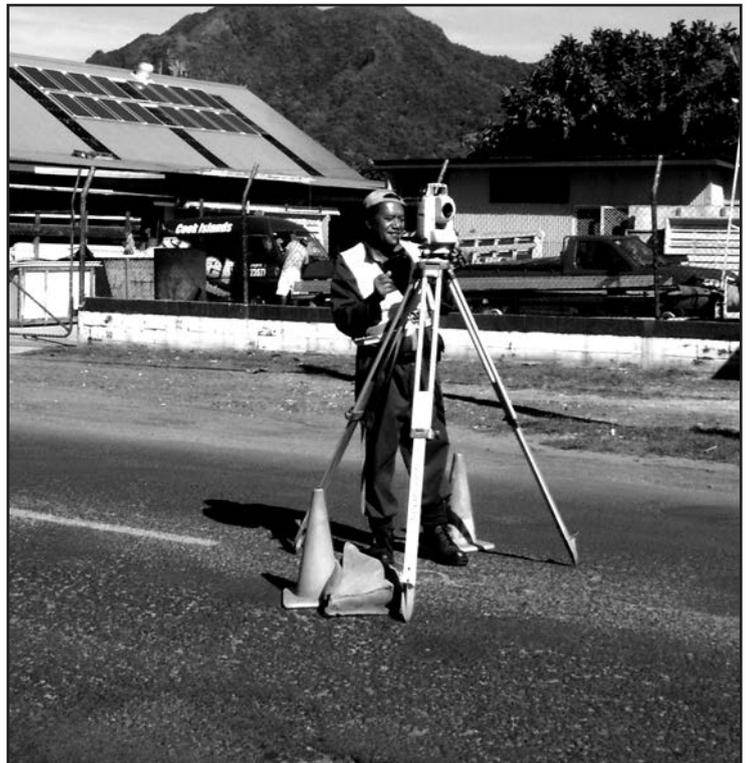
Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning engineering team say that the contractors will have reached the Kia Orana tank which is another 1000 metres further up the road by the end of next week. The ultimate aim is to reach Te Kou water intake by mid-June.

Pressure testing of all parts of the new system is ongoing with the Ministry's engineering team advising that all of Tupapa village

(sector 3) including to the Ara Metua has passed the test and is ready to be hooked to the new system in the next fortnight or so.

Tidy up work is being carried with repairs to the crossings on the main road: two at Avatiu port and the other at the Punanga Nui market. Other work includes fitting valve boxes to all the bulk-water meter chambers; and surveying the pipeline for official records.

The Ministry advise that traffic up the Takuvaive Valley Road will experience road blocks and apologizes for any inconvenience while this monumental work to improve the town water supply is being carried out. Project City 2 is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2013, after which Project City3 to reseal the town roads will commence.



Making survey of pipeline work for official land records



Asian Development Bank



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

A model dancer

By Charles Pitt

Sydney born and based dancer and model Lydia Simonis-Tariu is slim, stands 5ft 10 tall and weighs 63kg. She is strikingly beautiful, is just 15 years old and is a proud Cook Islander.

The Herald spoke with Lydia (a Brisbane Broncos supporter) on Tuesday afternoon.

Her father is from Atiu and her mother is Russian. Although still a High School student based in Sydney, this is her fourth trip to the Cook Islands and on one trip she spent three months in Atiu.

Currently attending St Ives High School, she has no immediate plans for University study as she wishes to pursue her main interests which are dancing and modeling. She has modeled swimwear for Vera Dean designs in Sydney (Vera is a Cook Islander).

She is also doing an internship with Bellaboo Organic Skin Care. Later this year she will be one of the faces for Project Model Pacifica. This is an initiative to encourage Pacific young people in Sydney that modeling can also be an option for them.

It is dancing which has brought her back to the Cook Islands on this occasion. She is in Rarotonga for a dance promotion for Tropical Island Hula Entertainers, a Polynesian and Cook Islands performing arts team based in Sydney. With her on this trip are Rarotongan born, Sydney based Alex Nichols who is a director of tropical Island Hula Entertainers and the current international dance champion and Sydney based Samoan, Brian Tuisila a co-director of the management team.

Alex said there are plans to bring whole team (30-dancers, singers, musicians) back in December for a few shows. They also plan to enter the Nesian Mana Hula Mania 6 competition to be held at the National Auditorium on 20-21 December.

Lydia has won dance competitions in Sydney and she plans to take part in the contest at the end of the year.

Lydia is a young woman with a bright future ahead of her and the Herald wishes her well.



KAPA IPO

Tata'ia e Ruteria Taripo

I te pō Ma'anāakai 18 o Mē, kua rave`ia ki ko i te Staircase Restaurant & Bar te tārērē`ura o te Kapa Ipo. Ko te`ā mata`iti teia i te rave`anga`ia teia tārērē`ura ki Rarotonga nei.

Ko te mata`iti mua i te 2006 ko te Kapa Ipo mua te reira, ko te rua ko te Kapa`Oe Ana, ko te toru ko te Kapa Ora`anga`Ou`ē i teia mata`iti ko te Kapa Ipo Kōpū Tangata &`□kono i te`Aorangi. `E ura tā-pātana oki teia tārērē`ura nā roto i te`akatinamou`anga i te`ura ki runga i te`ura Kūki`Airani`ē pērā katoa te reo Maori Kūki`Airani. Kua piri atu ki roto i teia tārērē`ura`e toru ngā pātana, ko Metua raua ko Antonia, ko Petero raua ko Andrena`ē Tarapiripa raua ko Roimata.

Kua tārērē rātou no te`iki`anga ē ko`ai te kā ō atu ki roto i te Pō ma`ata koia`oki a te rā 1 o Tiūnu e tu mai nei. Kua mānea tikāi te`akaari mai`anga i tā rātou au tārēni`ē pērā katoa tō rātou rākei.

Kua tae katoa mai i tērā pō no`Autirēria tēta`i ngā aito`ura ko Alex Nicholls`ē Lydia Tariu, i te`akaari mai i tō raua karape`ē te tārēni no runga i tēia`ura Kapa Ipo.

No reira, a teia pō Ruitoru ra 22 o Mē, ka rave`ia te rua o te tārērē`anga o te Kapa Ipo, ki kō rāi i te Staircase Restaurant & Bar. Ko te openga i reira koia ko te pō Ma'anāakai rā 1 o Tiūnu,`ē ka rave`ia te tārēre o te Kapa Ipo no te`ura`anga e ko`ai te ka`autū.



Arorangi Bowling Club seek permission to move to Raemaru Sports Ground



A Synthetic Turf Green

Raemaru Park is the Home of the Arorangi Synthetic Turf Bowling Green. Some 3 months ago, the Club lodged an "Expression of Interest" to the President of the Puaikura Sport Federation for permission to utilize one of the unused properties next to the Netball Court. Today the Arorangi Bowling Club will appoint a Project Team and a Project Manager, lead by Senior Vice President Iro Rangi to meet the Puaikura Sport Federation to put forward the details to convert the current property to a Synthetic Turf Green, to service the "sport for all" of the Vaka of Puaikura.

Identifying Project Costs

Identifying the cost of a major construction project and method of funding are key elements of the planning process. The reality is that most bowling clubs have limited funds, so it is critical that the project represents the "best spend."

Different Construction Costs Options

For an accurate, up to date costing of the types of green surface, it is recommended to

contact the individual supply companies. When pricing the work ensure you are getting an apples for apples comparison. In 2004 a report by VGA provided some insight to the costs of building and maintaining both natural and synthetic turf greens. The report noted:

- **A new natural turf green** is estimated to cost in the order of \$100K to build and will vary according to bowling club locations. The cost of maintaining this natural turf green was approx \$20K per annum.

- **A new synthetic turf green.** Constructed from scratch with extras such as pre-formed ditch unit, watering system and stable- sub-base is likely to cost in the order of \$180K - \$220K. The cost of maintaining a Synthetic Turf Green was put at \$5K per annum.

Once all the above information is received the bowling club will then be in a position to make an informed decision on whether or not to proceed and if so, how and when to proceed. The decision should be based on sound, objective data, rather than 'cut feel.'

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best ever Android Apps

SwiftKey

SwiftKey might be the best virtual keyboard for Android yet. It "removes" the spacebar by letting users type entire sentences without having to tap the spacebar. Artificial intelligence within the app learns your typing style to offer up the most relevant word suggestions.

Swype

Veteran users will be familiar with Swype's killer keyboard feature—being able to swipe your finger across a few letters to form entire words. A summer update made its machine learning engine smarter, adding a four-in-one keyboard and voice recognition. This is a glorious, Android-only keyboard experience for the those with two left thumbs.

Tasker

Tasker is...ingenious. It lets you quickly program commands for your phone, like automatically turning on your music when you plug in earphones, or automatically turning off Wi-Fi when you put your device face down. Yes, I totally buy its tagline: "turn your smartphone into a geniusphone."

ID Cards

Staff cards,
Loyalty Cards
Club Member-
ship cards

Come and talk
to us about your
requirements
now...



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Mending family fences

By Charles Pitt

So far this year the number of children offending is down on previous years but the actual number of offences committed will be up," this according to Eddie Browne who heads the Ministry of Internal Affairs Children and Families Division.

Browne is a familiar face in these circles as from 1987 to 2010 he was with the Probation Service at the Ministry of Justice. He has been with Internal Affairs for the last three years and is supported by Anna Newbegging.

Browne's job entails handling custody cases, adoptions, supervising juveniles brought before the Courts and preparing Court reports. Children under 16yrs of age fall under his watch. Importantly says Browne, his job entails finding ways to help children and their families. In this regard he liaises with other Ministries such as Education, Justice and Police. It's a team approach says Browne and it saddens him that most of his juvenile clients are from broken homes where proper parental care and supervision have broken down.

Browne also works closely with the Juvenile Crimes Prevention Committee of the Ministry of Justice who seek to resolve matters with



Eddie Brown of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Children and Family Division

juveniles and their families. The Committee in doing so may impose conditions. The current Committee is Bobby Matapo (Chair), June Baudinet and Kevin Iro.

In 2011 Browne says 9 children are recorded as committing 15 offences. In 2012, 10 children committed 30 offences.

These kids went after mainly electronic goods said Browne.

Browne said the Division has a 5 year plan. The United Nations wants a National Committee for Children set up and the formulation of national policies for all children in the Cook Islands. In 2018, government's next report to the UN Committee on Children will

be due. This will be a report on performance to the provisions of the UN Convention of the Child.

No special projects are on the books said Browne. Last year a referral system was put in place which means the Division is able to find out why a child may not be attending school. The system has worked well so far.



Ministry of Internal Affairs

CHILD & FAMILY DIVISION

- Protecting the rights of Children and Families
- Ensuring and monitoring children and families welfare, health and education
- Strengthening policies and legal requirements to better protect the rights of the child and families

Norman day 15 July 2013

Political dramas and stunned mullets

By George Pitt

The Cook Islands are about to have a political D Day of its own, on or immediately following the 15th July. That's when the High Court's Presiding Justice will rule on Norman George's requests for declaratory judgements.

The Atiu MP is asking for a judiciary decision that he is not a member of the Cook Islands Party and that an anti-party hopping amendment aimed at preventing MPs like him from crossing the floor of Parliament to form coalitions is unconstitutional.

If Norman succeeds, the political arena will heat up overnight. Such a verdict will have a taser-gun effect on the Government, momentarily rendering them stunned mullets incapable and indecisive.

Here's the reason why it will hit deeply. The currently ostracised and unwanted Norman George will instantly have sexy political appeal. Both political parties will be like little insects circumnavigating a bright light to attract his attention.

The slow moving CIP will be under extreme pressure to swallow their pride and do whatever it takes to hold onto the reins of power. The pressure will come from their many supporters who scored plum government jobs when their party came in and now fear they may lose them even before the General Election due next year.

Will the CIP politicians reciprocate the unwavering loyalty their members showed them when they were wandering in the opposition wilderness for so long?

A victorious Norman is unlikely to loiter or linger. He will have the upper hand while both parties remain in stunned motionlessness waiting for him to lay some cards on the table. If Norman can persuade three CIP MPs to form a tight unit he will have serious leverage to forge a coalition Government with the Democratic Party Opposition.

This will test the DP's resolve

and will to do whatever to become the Government. All Norm's team will need Cabinet appointments that will include the Deputy Prime Ministership or if the Demos are desperate enough, Norman be given the Prime Ministership.

With the rare chance to become the Government, the Demos rank and file will pressure their MPs to do whatever, even if it means anointing Norman as Prime Minister.

Both parties will be severely tested with the two "whatever" laws of politics. You do "whatever" to become government and you do "whatever" to stay in government.

The CIP stand to be the biggest losers. They will lament their Prime Minister's hasty decision three years ago to ostracise Norman. Then they will get another mega dose of grief when they witness Norman outsmart the inexperienced Puna before delivering the political punch that will send the CIP down for the count of ten.

If Norm cannot be placated or seduced with enticements from either side he will patiently pause and observe the outcome of the Murienua bye election in August.

Right now the CIP look like losers. Going to the polls as an unpopular Government puts the CIP behind the eight ball for a start. This is the first opportunity for the disgruntled to exercise their suppressed displeasure at them. The personal pain inflicted upon the suffering will be returned with cathartic interest. Low income earners struggling to make ends meet, Cook Island Workers Association members who were deprived of the cost of living adjustment and the tax targeted pensioners are just some of the mistreated who will not vote for the CIP brand.

The inability to convince a credible person to accept the CIP ticket in Murienua is a worrying concern for the Central Committee. The experienced Tom Marsters backed by loyal supporters had unwavering



Norman George

composure and political substance honed from years of longevity occupying the crease.

Marsters was never in need of a treasure chest of campaign funds because he was a solid community man for more than twenty years. From the day after every election Marsters simply maintained a physical presence at local events, happenings, Church and was very seldom absent from anything he was invited to even if it meant skipping a Cabinet meeting.

Marsters didn't need to spend more than \$100 on media campaigning nor did he hold tent meetings or host the voters to expensive banquets and feasts.

Quite the contrary for Marsters' successor, with the CIP accounts in deficit the candidate will have to dig into his or her own pockets and self fund the campaign. The substantial capital outlay to gamble on a favourable political outcome that will leave the successful candidate financially stressed and burdened is hardly an attractive proposition.

Supporters are unlikely to make serious contributions because these are hard times and if successful, their MP will have no access to Ministry support funds to reward the faithful with tax funded jobs. Those loyal to Marsters are not necessarily loyal to the CIP. These voters may just opt for a change. Then there are the 143 registered voters who did not participate in the democratic process. If they could be motivated to vote this time,

who will it be for?

The only candidate confirmed for the Murienua bye-election is businessman James Beer, a second time Democratic Party campaigner. In a two nomination race Beer is the obvious favourite. He has learnt valuable lessons from 2010 and maintained a constituency presence, promoted his vision in house to house visits and barbecues and has raised campaign funds. Beer seems to have a head start in the race for Murienua.

And if Beer wins the seat, someone else's plan will also be easier. Yes you guessed right. Norman will only need to convince two CIP MPs to join him to form a coalition government with the Democratic Party.

Of course a Beer victory would mean ten Demo MPs excluding Norman George. And Opposition Leader, Wilkie Rasmussen, will also have options of his own to exploit. If he himself can lure three CIP MPs with promises of Cabinet posts, Rasmussen could exclude Norm from Cabinet but install him as the Speaker of the House.

Persuading three CIP MPs to move sideways may not be as difficult as it looks. Given the current unpopularity of government, the Tupapa, Vaipae, Mauke and Pukapuka MPs know their seats may well return to the Demos at the general elections next year. So they have little to lose but a lot to gain for their neglected constituencies if presented with the need to form a Demo led coalition.

Norman a Party Kill Joy

The Party is over

By George Pitt

Norman George's antidote for the country's financial predicament is simple and swift.

Norman by virtue of his public comments and animated characteristics render him predictably readable. After decades of living under the public microscope, nothing about him hasn't been exposed for public consumption.

For all the dross that has surfaced in his life, Norman still has a magnetic pull not because he has become perfect but because he is extraordinary. Our infallibility and sins are covered and overshadowed by Norman's shortfalls and failings, public and private.

Norman mirrors our own imperfections, stains and warts and all. This builds infinity with Norman; we don't feel out of place in his presence. His never give up attitude that drives him to get up before the count of ten is an inspiration to the down trodden. There is no veil of concealment, with Norman, what you see is that you get.

The mould life has fashioned for Norman exudes a pattern of behaviour that can be prophesied into reality. Norman's predictability is not a guesstimate but an interpretation based upon his known personality characteristics and attributes.

If Norman George's dogged persistence propels him into political prominence with the liberty to do things 'my way' the following is predicted.

Given the authority to rescope the country's fiscal landscape, Norm's first act will be the legislation of a Windfall Tax putting an overdue end to the Toagate debacle. This \$100,000 a month saving will keep a hundred Public Service low income earners in employment.

Legislation to subsidise the pensioner's tax uproar in favourable terms to them will follow. The local old age pension will be reviewed and the anomalies redefined. The double dipping by overseas pension recipients, government workers receiving the pension and wealthy business people

receiving the pension will be addressed resulting in a saving of \$2 million annually.

Norman will boldly go where no politician has dared to tread and without fear or favour of tycoon Trevor Clarke and CITC, instigate a Commission of Inquiry into the Colagate tax scandal.

There will be a clean out at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management with Secretary Richard Neves being replaced by Norman's first cousin Tupu Araitu or another cousin Adrian Orr.

Norman will pursue the establishment of a mini stock exchange to facilitate the trading of shares in Government listed State Owned Enterprises; Te Aponga, BCI, Airport Authority, Telecom, Ports Authority. The conservative estimate of \$100 million raised will be sufficient to trade the Country out of debt with a remaining surplus invested in new technology electricity power generation that compliments the infrastructure upgrade.

With these two advances in

place Norman will direct the investing of serious resources attracting the five star investors and travellers.

Norman will boost CI Tourism's marketing budget by opting out of the North American Air New Zealand link. Travellers from countries north and west will be targeted and fly here via Australia or New Zealand. A prioritised effort will be made to meet Air New Zealand's subsidy cancellation target by increasing Australian visitor numbers. That's more money saved.

Norman's success will undoubtedly become his conduit to redundancy. Norman's crisis leadership strengths and skills are not conducive to the management and maintenance of success. They thrive and are appreciated in the midst of the storms and battles of life. They engineer success they don't baby sit it.

Every dog has its day. And while it's Norman's day he'll bark at the sun and moon, wag his tail to his heart's content and make hay while the sun shines till the curtain falls.

Radio warnings help islanders prepare

High seas reach 100m inland on Manihiki

By Ranqi Mitaera

Listening to Radio Cook Islands every morning is important to people living in the outer islands. Our isolation means that weather reports, news items and the talkback show play a big part in our daily lives. In Manihiki, many of us depend on sustenance from the lagoon/ocean, and the radio provides an up to date report of what sort of activities our day should consist of. George Paniani's hourly weather report assist us to plan our fishing activities, pearl farming schedules and as a mother, let us know if it's a good idea to hang the washing outside on the line.

The recent bout of high waters forecasted for the low lying areas impacted on us here in Manihiki. Because we are a low lying atoll, any small changes in weather patterns converts to a significant impact on our island. The pictures featured show lagoon water level encroaching more than 100 metres inland past Tukao School. For some other areas around the island it has brought debris and coconuts onto the roads. This has caused a diversion in traffic flow (if the minimal amount of vehicles on the island can be referred to as a "traffic"), and some damage to roads frequently used.

Some pearl farmers have

had to make adjustments to their work programmes with conditions on the water being very rough. There are some areas in the lagoon that are murky, due to the swells and motions caused during these periods. So for some, it can convert to reducing the number of shells brought in for seeding or harvesting, hence affecting the total number of shells worked on for that period. Therefore, the impacts of climate change here is not only a social one, but an economic impact for the few farmers that continue to farm.

Approximately 3 weeks ago, there was little rainfall here in Manihiki. In fact, it got

a bit desperate for a while. Then, just the other week, a good down pour of rain, and it's been raining nearly every night since filling up water tanks and cyclone shelters with water. Like many other outer islands, Manihiki is not on a reticulation system. Every household has to source their own water tank/s. In the villages, there are several community water tanks that assist each household with limited supply. So maintenance and procurement of water tanks are very much a necessity for families and collection infrastructure.

I thank God for the rain because my garden is growing with attitude now!

TE REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI



tātā'ia `e Rutera Taripo

Kia Orāna `aka`ōu `e te kātotoa. Tē pē`ea nei kōtou? Tē pāpū nei `iāku ē te meitaki `ua nei kōtou pouroa. `E au rā mānea tikāi teia i topa ake nei, `ē te tano meitaki no te pā`ī-tai.

Hello again everybody. How are you all? I am sure you are all doing fine. These past days have just been beautiful and just right for swimming.

No tēia epetoma, kua pati mai tēta`i au taeake kia tāta `aka`ou atu au i tētai au ingoa Māori o te mero kōpapa. Te `akakite mai nei ē, `e kāre rātou e pāpū roa ana i tēta`i au ingoa Māori o te kōpapa. Te `irinaki nei au i reira ē, `e kia riro tēia i te tauturu atu i tēta`i au ingoa kāre kōtou e pāpū ana.

For this week, some have asked me to write again some names of body parts. Some of them are still unsure of some of the Māori names of the body. So I hope this will be of help with some of the names that you may not be sure of. Kia manuia and Good luck.

Ingoa o te Mero kōpapa

(Body Part Names)

Asking

Tē`ea tō`ou _____ ?
Where is your _____?

Replying

Tēia tōku _____ or Ko tōku _____ teia
This is my _____ or Here is my _____.

ūpoko - head	rouru/rauru - hair	rae - forehead
tuke-mata - eyebrow	mata - eye	uruuru-mata - eyelashes
putāngi`u - nose	ngutu - lips	va`a - mouth
arero - tongue	ni`o - tooth	pāpāringa - cheeks
momo - face	tanga - jaw	kauae - chin
taringa - ear	kumikumi - beard	ta`a - moustache
karaponga - throat	kakī - neck	kōpapa - body
paku`ivi - shoulder	`ope - hip(s)	to`e - buttocks
rima - arm,/hand	poro-rima - elbow	pa`ungā-rima - wrist
kapu-rima - palm	umauma - chest	ivi-kaokao - ribs
puku`atu/manava - heart	kōpū - stomach	pito - belly-button
`ū`ā - thigh	turi - knee	kau`anga vaevae - shin
tā-`akari-vaevae - calf	pa`unga vaevae - ankle	vaevae - leg/foot
poro-vaevae - heel	tapuae - sole/footprint	toto - blood
roimata - tears	`uare/`uāvare - saliva	ivi - bone
mimi - urine	uaua - muscle/vein	
matikao/maikuku - fingernails/or toenails	mangamanga-vaevae - toe(s)	

How to stay away from trouble

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I talked about how many of our young people are being lured into things that will bring harm to them. Therefore this article is to encourage our young people, including adults on HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE. It is also important for us to be reminded of what the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 10v.10 that the mission of the devil or Satan is "...to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly." Be encouraged also what Isaiah 59v.19 says that "...When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." The main scripture reading for this article is Psalm 1v.1-3 (GN) which reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God, instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do." From these three verses, I want to show you three important lessons on How To Stay Away From Trouble!

Lesson 1. SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE WORLD v.1 reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God." The apostle Paul said in Romans 12v.2 "...do not be conformed to this world." I John 2v.15 and 17(b) "If anyone loves the world and the things of it, the love of the Father is not in him..." Anyone who continues to remain in the world, and does what is not

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

right in the sight of God, is committing a sin before God. Romans 6v.23 reads "...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8v.31 said "If God is for us who can be against us."

Lesson 2. SATURATE YOURSELVES WITH THE WORD OF GOD v.2 reads "...they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night." The question is, 'Why is it important for us to be saturated with God's words?' The answer is to avoid us from stumbling into the things of the world. If you walk in darkness, you will trip over and hurt yourself. Psalm 119v.105 reads "...the Word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path." If people are not saturating themselves with the Word of God, then they are filling themselves with the things of the world! This is the cause of family problems and arguments. Proverbs 30v.5 reads "...He is like a shield for all who seek His protection." In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve doubted the Word of God.. Jesus said in John 8v.31-32 "...if you obey My teaching, you are really My disciples, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Lesson 3. SITUATE YOURSELF BY THE WATER. v.3 reads "They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do." Jesus said in John 7v.38 that "He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of

living water.". In this time of increasing problems (in the Cook Islands), our people need the fruit of the Holy Spirit to flow from within us to help them, and most importantly to direct them to Jesus Christ! Jesus said in John 16v.7 that "He will send the Holy Spirit to help us, and the Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth." Remember we must 1) SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD. 2) SATURATE OURSELVES WITH THE WORD OF GOD. 3) SITUATE OURSELVES BY THE WATER Who is the Holy Spirit. May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te arua.



PUBLIC NOTICE



PRICE ORDER 04/2013

PURSUANT to the Control of Prices Act 1966 and the powers delegated to me as provided under section 30 of the said Act, I hereby make the following Order:

- 1 This Order is cited as Price Order 04/2013 and shall come into effect on the 18th day of May 2011 for **TRIAD PACIFIC PETROLEUM LTD.**
- 2 Maximum selling prices for fuel imported into the Cook Islands shall be at a rate specified in the schedule below except the island of Aitutaki.
- 3 For the Outer Islands, prices established have been reviewed and updated to include freight, wharfage, boating, reefing, drum/container cost, evaporation and cartage costs.
- 4 Value Added Tax is included in the prices herein set. Import Levy is exempt for Outer Islands excluding Aitutaki as per Exemption Order 03/09/2010.
- 5 All previous references in any Price Order as to the selling prices listed in this Order are hereby revoked upon effective dates above.
- 6 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired.

Given under our hand this 16th day of May 2013

Brian Terrence Hagan
Chairman for the Price Tribunal

Madeilene Sword-Tua
Member for the Price Tribunal

SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER

ITEM	WHOLESALE TO Retailers/Bulk Users	RETAIL PRICES TO CONSUMERS IN			Effective Date
		Rarotonga	Southern Group	Northern Group	
PETROL	2.25	2.53	2.80	2.86	May 18, 2013
DIESEL	2.00	2.28	2.59	2.65	May 31, 2013

Technology and Me

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello, everybody! I trust that you've all had a good week so far. As you may have noticed from the big and bold title, this article is dedicated to those computer-savvy, technology freaks who just can't keep up with today's modern marvels. I am just one of many teenagers who are always on the lookout for the latest Apple or Samsung product, as these two brands are forever trying to outdo each other by updating their devices (we also keep our eyes open for the cheapest prices. Lolz)

With the invention of touch screen, kids have been begging their parents to buy them the latest phone. I find it depressing when I see a kid that's younger than me with a more flash phone, and

they don't even know how to use it (another reason why it irks me is because my phone is a dinosaur. It's that ancient) But hey, the saying is: "If you can afford it, flaunt it." While I try and make do with what I have, I can't help but notice that the revolution of technology is further developing and evolving. It scares me a little and, although we don't have flying cars or hover machines (yet) at the rate we're going, that king of technology might not be too far off.

"Development and Evolution". Two big words that describe our current status in terms of technology. I mean, look around. Gone are the days where you trade DVDs' with each other. Now that the hard drive has entered

the picture, movies, music and other electronic files are exchanged with a device that's no bigger than your thumb. You don't have to worry about the movie being scratched (but you might get a little panicky if the flash drive has a virus on it) just pop it on your laptop and away you go.

WiFi and Bluetooth are necessary components in a teenager's life. We're always scabbing off songs and video clips from each other, downloading from YouTube, updating our status on Facebook or Twitter and posting vain (and some random) photos on Instagram. It's just a part of life, almost as necessary as eating and breathing. Far out, some people even find their "soul mates" online

(which I reckon is a bit shifty, but it happens) These are just some cool things that we, teenagers, are grateful for. Windows 8 just came out this year, but personally, I don't find it any different than Windows 7 with the exception of the overall conceptual design (It's a lot more prettier)

Technology. It's a wonderful thing. Because of it, we are able to do a lot of stuff, such as contacting family members half way across the world with the touch of a button or sharing videos and music with the world. As long as technology is not used in an abusive manner (like in the movie Terminator. That kind of stuff creeps me out) we should be all right. Can you imagine a world without internet? I can't.

Technology, it's taking over



By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Technology, It's taken over our lives. I can't leave the my house without my phone and when I do I feel so incomplete, I feel naked without it, it's a part of my life. I know I'm not the only one who thinks this. It's natural though. We grew up with all these new gismos and gadgets and now we just can't live without them. I know 3 year olds that know how to use I-pads better than

I do. My nephew is better than me at temple run, and he is only 5 for goodness sakes. In schools now they are taking away books and giving children I-pads and tablets to do all their work on.

I don't know about you guys but I think we rely on technology way too much. Years ago people would have laughed in your face if you told them that in 50 years there was going to be a device that could hold all your books, music, your whole social life and so much more and it could fit in the palm hand, and yet there is such device and it's a I-pod touch.

Yeah sure, technology is a great thing, but it can also cause a disconnection between ourselves and the people in our lives. I can use my the way I use my cell phone as a perfect

example for how it has helped my relationships grow and also how it can take away from my relationships.

Because of websites such as "single friend finder" we now no longer have to even leave the comfort of your bed to get a date. People now days are finding their life long partner on the internet. People now have boyfriends/girlfriends that they have never even met before.

What happened to going out in to "civilization"? What happened to all that romantic stuff we now only see in movies? I don't know about the rest of you but if the guy I liked sung me a song at school just to convince me to go on a date with him, I'd be head over heels in love with him (I'm referring to the movie 10 things I hate about you).

There are plenty of good things about technology such as computers and phones. Without facebook/email I would never keep in contact with my friends overseas. Without my phone I wouldn't be able to text my parents to say that I needed a ride or something else important, like to text me more credit for my phone!

Ages 8-18 spend seven and a half hours a day on the computer according to the New York Times. Considering there are 24 hours in a day, that is a long time to be on the computer. Also, this does not count all those hours texting or talking on their cell phones, so technology really does seem like it is taking over our lives.

If people in the olden days could do without it, why do we think we can't?

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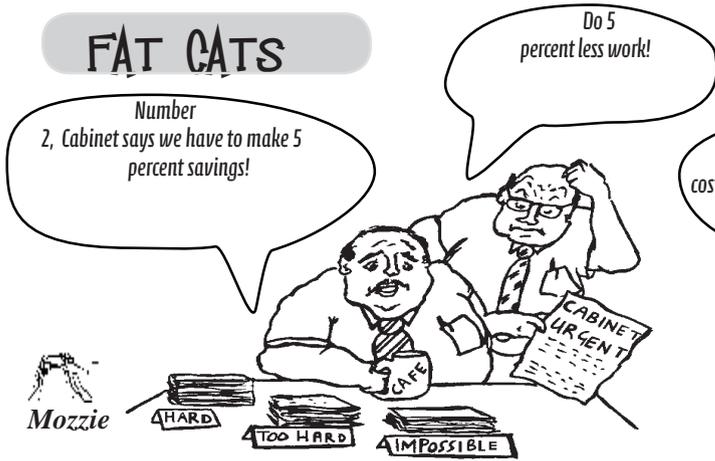
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COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Word is our Richard has turned out to be something of a tricky Dickie-moving funds about the pages of the ledger to hide them from the rabid spenders in Cabinet! Facing a 200 G shortfall, even Ministers have had to trim (rather painfully) over 70 G's from their vaults. Tricky Dickie couldn't wait for HOMs to do the honours and save some coins, he just trimmed five percent off their books for them!

He grapples with financial figures by day in the bowels of the kingdom's treasury and by night he grapples with felony figures amid the branches of shrubs in the suburbs! That's our tricky Dickie! Last Sunday night Nevey nipped out to marvel at a road crash on his doorstep. On returning to his roost, a hooded felon was taking off with some household contents including Dickie's laptop! The hunt was soon on then the felon was found among the bushes where a struggle ensued and ended with Dickie pinning the felon to the floor until the boys in blue appeared.

One of new QR Tom Tom's duties will be to put on a big welcome shindig for the Kiwi Governor General who is due to visit Rarotonga in October! As our QR comes under the Kiwi GG, will Tom Tom bow first? Or will both bow in unison? Or will bowing be dispensed with? Will the new First Lady courtesy? As the Kiwi

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



GG is a Maori, will there be a hong?

Tom's pen.

lot coming here to settle as a solution to their climate forced displacement, we already have the Fijians settling in here as a solution to their fiscal shortfall in Fiji!

Tom Tom is set to move into the QR's Palace on 29 July 2013 and as Knighthoods are not being handed out until the New Year, he has a wee wait for his. With Sir Dred expected to take his four wheel drive into retirement with him, Tom Tom will be entitled to a new vehicle. Will he demand one better than Heather? Can't have the QR driving anything of a lesser status than what anyone else drives! The by-election for Tom Tom's old seat in Murienua will take place on 24 August 2013 with James Beer from the Demo camp, tipped to win. Don't expect any boxes of groceries courtesy of Manea Foods to mysteriously appear on your doorstep either!

Parliament resumes on 4 June 2013 with the Budget likely to be tabled on 7 June. One of Sir Dred's last acts will be to sign the Budget into law. But what if the Budget is so controversial, he refuses? Then it may have to wait a month for Tom

It has been said there are three types of people. There are those that don't know what is happening, there are those who watch what is happening and there are those who make things happen. The downfall of the motion less CIP Government is that they are watching what Norman George is making happen.

At the recent CIP Executive/Caucus chin wag, the question was put as to what ideas there were for the next election campaign. There was no response from the floor which seems to indicate maybe the Executive don't expect a second term! Who's fault would that be?

Oh dear chooks! The Nansen Initiative circus is in town! It's the regional chin wag about population displacement in the face of climate upheaval! What about the population displacement where Cookies are fleeing to Kiwiland in the face of a fiscal shortfall! Talk about the Kiribas

With some 80 odd workers from the land of the great wall due on our shores in July/August to work on the roads, what's the bet there'll be a dramatic decrease in the large number of plump, free range chooks wandering all over the place! Watch for large, Mandarin speaking groups out at night raiding the creeks of shrimps, eels and tilapia! With mangoes and paw paws coming on, watch for sudden, overnight disappearances of these from trees beside public roads.

At the recent pow wow of CIP Executive/Caucus members, they were told by the Leader not to believe anything they may have read in the new Inde paper! But first, they must read the paper so was that a signal by the Leader for members to read the Inde in order to recognize the info as unbelievable?

Cook Islands
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VACANCY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - CIPA

The Cook Islands Pearl Authority (CIPA) invites applications for the position of Chief Executive Officer.

CIPA is a Crown Agency responsible for promoting and encouraging the development of a sustainable and commercially viable pearl industry in the Cook Islands.

In recent years, its main task has been focused on rejuvenating the industry by developing and carrying out strategies aimed at reversing the decline in production and increasing exports.

CIPA is seeking a capable and experienced Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with a proven record who can manage CIPA's organization and operations effectively and deliver its stated outputs and outcomes in an efficient manner.

The CEO will be responsible to a Board of Directors and will provide sound advice, relevant management information, and develop strategies for CIPA's operational success as well as the pearl industry's long term sustainability.

The CEO will develop and build strong relationships with industry stakeholders, monitor the industry, market and trends, and undertake development and marketing activities which will rejuvenate the industry.

This is a varied and challenging role which will require a person with outstanding leadership qualities, as well as interpersonal and communication skills.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of five years experience in a senior management role
- Tertiary degree or qualification in a business management or relevant technical area
- Proven record of successful commercial and/or organisational background
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking, planning and problem solving
- Strong leadership, interpersonal & communications skills
- High level of business development and marketing skills
- High degree of commercial & business acumen, strong understanding of financial management and budgetary controls
- Excellent organisational skills, multi-tasking capability and literacy in Office and relevant ICT software
- Have a sound knowledge of the pearl industry (local and international context)

Written applications with a CV are to be forwarded to:
Chairperson,
CIPA (Ref - CEO)
C/- Brown Harvey & Associates P.C.
PO Box 429, Rarotonga
or emailed to: tina@browneharvey.co.ck

A job description is available from the CIPA Office or by emailing: info@pearlauthority.co.ck

Applications will close 4.00 pm on Thursday, 6 June 2013.

TENDER



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Government of the Cook Islands

**TENDER FOR
RAROTONGA HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS – C33/13**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation invites tenders for the Refurbishment of the Rarotonga Hospital Administration Building exterior.

Tenders are sought on a Guaranteed Maximum Price basis for the supply of all professional services, materials, labour, machinery, plant and equipment to successfully achieve the Project Goal (as described in the Tender Documents).

Tender Documents are available for collection from the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, MFEM Building, Avarua, Rarotonga.

For enquiries contact:

Shona Tekorona

Property Officer

Phone (682) 29391

Email shona.tekorona@cookislands.gov.ck

Tenders close 3.00pm Thursday, 30th May 2013.

VACANCY



**PORT AUTHORITY
ACCOUNTANT**

The Port Authority invites applications for a suitably qualified and experienced person in the above senior position. Applicant should be dynamic and motivated to be able to effectively and efficiently oversee and manage all Port Authority's financial and accounting functions.

Please send your application with CV detailing your experiences and list of three referees to The General Manager, Ports Authority, PO Box 84, at Avatiu Wharf, Rarotonga or email applications to louisa@ports.co.ck. Applicant must hold current motor vehicle driver's license classes 'A/B'. Copy of the Job Description can be obtained from the Port Authority Office at Avatiu. Please contact Louisa Rani on telephone 21-921. Applications close 4pm Wednesday 29 May 2013 CI time.

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CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Telecom Cook Islands is looking for a dynamic person to join our Customer Services Team.

This provides an exciting opportunity for someone who is wanting to start a career in the Telecommunications Industry. If you have a strong customer service and communication skills, a positive person who is open and honest, and confident to go after your goals, then send a covering letter and your CV to: Mere Moeauri, Customer Services Manager, Telecom Cook Islands, PO Box 106, Avarua.

Email: mmoeauri@telecom.co.ck

Applications close 4:00pm Wednesday the 15th of May 2013



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

TRADE AND MARKETING MANAGER & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) has two management positions open. 'Trade and Marketing Manager & Business Development Manager'. The ideal applicant must be hard working with a tertiary qualification, above average analytical and management skills, outstanding communication skills and the ability to network with a broad cross section of people. A background/experience in strategic planning and project management is a must.

The Business Development Manager is responsible for the Business Development division. Ideal skills and attributes for the role include the following: Business ownership and lending experience Experience in vetting proposals Accounting experience The Trade & Marketing Manager is the Team Leader for the Trade & Marketing division. Key skills and attributes for the role include the following: Knowledge on regional/international trade agreements Experience in marketing and trade Capacity to build team members

Applications with CVs should be addressed to:

The Finance and Administration Manager

Confidential: Trade and Marketing Manager/ Business Development Manager'

Business Trade Investment Board

Private Bag

Or submit your Application & CV via email addressed to sarah.samuel@btib.gov.ck

Applications close 3.00pm Saturday 25th May 2013.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health Cook Islands wishes to advise the following confirmed schedule of visits by Health Specialists for the period 20 – 31 May 2013.

Programme	Date	Location
Orthopaedic	20 – 31 May 13	Rarotonga

If you are experiencing the following symptoms/diseases:

Orthopaedic

- Fractures
- Arthritis
- Joint problems

Please come and see the General Outpatient Doctor at Rarotonga Hospital immediately, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

All patients will be screened and prioritised for specialist appointment.

Standard Protocol: To be seen by your General Practitioner, Outpatient Doctor and Clinic Doctor first before referral to visiting specialist.

Please note that not everyone will be seen within the two week period. Further specialist visits will be in future.

Meitaki maata



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Government of the Cook Islands

**“GOVERNMENT PREMISES FOR LEASE
AVARUA WHARF**

The Government building colloquially known as the Raro Fried Chicken building and situated on the Avarua Wharf environs will be available for lease in the near future.

Proposals are invited from anybody interested in leasing, short term, the said premises.

For further details including terms and conditions of lease please make enquiries to the Cook Islands investment Corporation, Attention Lloyd Miles. Tel 29 391 or e-mail Lloyd.miles@cookislands.gov.ck”

Proposals, in writing must be received on or before Tuesday 11th June 2013.

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