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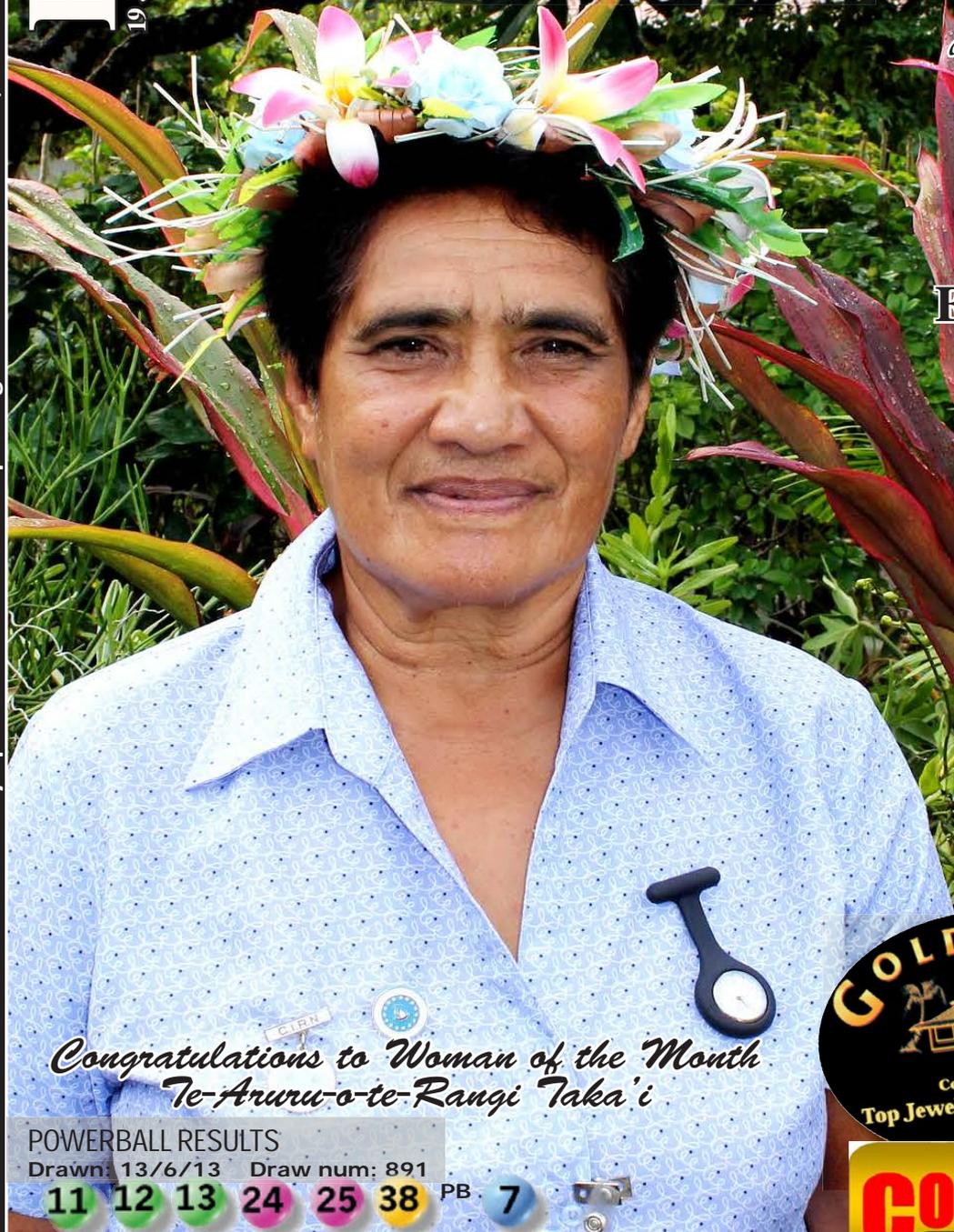
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# Price of doing business to escalate

## *Government does not honour big talk to reduce costs*

The CIP Government's pledge to reduce the cost of doing business has become a figment in their imagination. Their goal of supporting the country's key economic drivers has been sacrificed by Government's desperate short sighted cash crabbing schemes to balance the books at Treasury.

Key economic driver number one, the tourism sector is about to have another overhead nail driven into its strained operation costs. More dependent than ever before on imported workers, not by choice but by poor governance, the Secretary of Finance's request Immigration review raising of fees associated with employing foreign workers will push consumer prices to resistant levels.

Immigration has responded by delaying any increases until the public have been consulted through the likes of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism related Associations.

The Ministry of Finance points the finger at the Heads of Ministries for the fee raising proposal. Given a day to come up with ideas for the Ministries to increase revenues, the lazy way of increasing fees was the group's idea. HOMs who cannot think creatively in options to create new money should be questioned on their suitability to lead a Ministry. Not one HOM suggested they take a pay cut. Instead they consider increasing an overburdened public with more of the same.

While the University of the South Pacific have graduated 60 students with an MBA- Masters in Business Administration degree, will we ever see the skills acknowledged by this

qualification being applied in the administration of the Country? Why aren't some of these graduates used in group brainstorming sessions to help the HOMs come up with solutions to create new revenue streams instead of the uninventive fee increases?

Does anyone in government consider how the private sector will be impacted by their decision making? The voice of the Chamber of Commerce rose to prominence after the 1996 economic meltdown, the government took serious consideration to their contributions to governance and policy decisions. There was a time when the Chamber's opinion meant something to Government. Where is that commercial influence today?

Margins are shrinking and cost cutting shavings in tourism are reducing efficiency for effectiveness. International rates are pushed up while our international service tumbles. Someone has to pay for the increased cost of doing business in the Cook Islands and it is the tourist, they'll be paying more for less.

Repeat business will soon notice the difference in the prices for the room and the services. Repeats will not become three peats. Tourists will tolerate the increases but will resist returning and choose to sample alternatives such as Fiji, Bali or the very competitive Gold Coast of Queensland.

The Island's larger Hotels and Resorts are increasingly dependent on skilled imported workers and senior management. With Cook Islanders being vulnerably transient, the inhouse training and development of skilled staff often results in locals

going off shore to maximise on their new skills.

Prior to the evolution of depopulation it was deemed a privilege to live in the Cook Islands and to work here an even greater blessing so those who chose this path were made to pay. Circumstances have reversed but the fees remain and in an industry where the margins are being squeezed added costs by way of increased fees will put the destination beyond the affordable bracket of the price discerning New Zealand traveller.

With no organisation willing to take Government to task over issues contradicting the intention to reduce the cost of doing business, individual tourism businesses are reluctant to speak out. Some sight Tourism Board Chairman Ewan Smith's close relationship with Tourism Minister Teina Bishop as a concern to whether their grievances will be treated with their best interests.

Some employers are annoyed they have to spend up to \$300 advertising for local staff before they can recruit from overseas. There is enough common sense to know certain skills essential for quality service in tourism just doesn't exist locally, so why the pointless exercise of advertising? Continuity of service standards is so crucial and an imported worker gives that comfort because there is an uncertainty of how long a local worker will last.

The multi layer process of importing an overseas worker simply to sustain an existing business is a frustration some employers are having difficulty with. Local employees generally give little lead time when they resign and emigrate. With local skilled staff in short supply an

employer has to poach workers which causes animosity or go overseas for a replacement.

The frustration is Immigration doesn't share the urgency of the need for a replacement. One employer said it took four months for immigration to process their application. The benefit of an overseas contracted worker is he can't leave like a local employee and take up a new job in another resort or restaurant at the drop of the hat. "Service is everything in tourism and when you don't carry any fat, just one key person out of the loop can place strain on the whole operation."

One new business venture said they will need to import six workers. "We need certain skills which if advertised for here will only mean someone else will lose staff because the skill pool was depleted. Existing businesses are struggling to hold on to their staff as it is." The existing fees are high without talk of them going up they said.

Six workers at \$500 per year each for their work permits is \$3000. Immigration's application fee is \$25, Internal Affairs vett the contract for a fee of \$50, and then there is the police and medical reports from overseas, the travel costs, initial accommodation costs and cross your fingers they don't get sick because the hospital fees initially set for tourists who usually have travel insurance apply to imported workers.

One gripe over the work permit fee is it is prepaid for twelve months and if a worker for some reason has their contract terminated before that time there is no refund from Immigration.

-By George Pitt

# PM impresses in Washington DC

Prime Minister Henry Puna received high praise for his keynote speech to an audience of international dignitaries gathered at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington DC, on Monday afternoon. Dignitaries and attendees congratulated the Prime Minister with accolades, reflecting a broad impression on a crowd of about 200 people.

Pacific Day was celebrated in the US Capitol with NZ Ambassador Mike Moore co-hosting the annual event along with the Dean of the Pacific Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Hersey Kyota of Palau.

PM Puna described the day as exhilarating and was thrilled at the success of the special event, which was planned and organised by a committee of Pacific diplomats and representatives from Washington DC and New York. Alongside Ambassador Moore was Jim McLay, NZ's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Also attending the event were Congressional representatives and high level officials from the Obama Administration.

In his speech, the Prime Minister described a range of policy challenges in the Pacific, also referring to the historical and friendly ties between the Island nations and the United States and the progress in relations following the 2012 Clinton visit and his more recent contact with Secretary of State John Kerry over the US Fisheries Treaty negotiations.

Prior to the Seminar, Puna was guest of honour at a private luncheon in the Ambassador's residence – a mixed gathering of dignitaries, who engaged in extensive discussions over US engagement with the region, Pacific trends and constraints, and the nature of US administrative roles.

The Prime Minister added value to the roundtable lunchtime debate with insights into the Pacific Islands Forum,



Hersey Kyota of Palau and PM Puna

and its scope of concerns and issues, as well as Cook Islands' successes in relating with major international partners.

As Chair of the Forum, the Prime Minister was the centre of attraction for the Pacific Day event in Washington DC, and part of a diplomatic push to build more of a policy dimension into the annual occasion. This year's seminar format was a success with encouragement to strengthen its profile into the future.

However, the Pacific's cultural diversity was also celebrated on the day with song and entertainment by expatriate islanders. The crowd swelled to over 400 people. Several groups performed in the evening function that followed the formal seminar discussions, including Fiji, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, and an Australian proficient on the didgeridoo.

The Prime Minister's assignment in the US continues today with calls on the two Congressional representatives from the State of Hawaii, USAID and the World Bank.



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# Water brings out best on both sides of political fence

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

In my last column I said that I hoped the Government gets on with the job of delivering better water services to our people. I can safely say that the master plan is ready and the Government is ready to move on it. Yesterday, I was privileged to have been invited to hear a presentation by the Minister of Infrastructure and Planning and Chinese engineers on the water main ring project of Rarotonga. I give thanks to the Minister for inviting myself, and Opposition MP's Selina Napa and Taunga Tuteru to hear the presentations. Also present were the Minister of Finance Mark Brown, MP for Matavera, Kiriau Turepu, MP for Ngatangia Ata Herman and MP for Tupapa George Maggie. There were a handful of officials there too and a representative for my Deputy, MP for Ruaau William Heather Jnr.

I hope that I do not pre-empt the Minister here and I hope he forgives me for perhaps jumping the gun here but I will try not to divulge too much. Honestly, I came out of the meeting happy and confident that finally the project would be underway

this year. Some of you people may recall that the Democratic Party Government proposed a water main ring project several years ago but the costs and the debt level of the Cook Islands prevented it from going ahead. It was also thwarted by the unwillingness of the Chinese to share labour with local contractors and workers. There were other concerns and we will not do justice with them if I raise them in this column.

Last year the Government announced the signing of the funding arrangements of this project; a joint effort between the Government, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China. The Opposition, thorough me as spokesperson was vocal in our questions and expressed concern about the debt burden on us and future generations. The Opposition was also concerned about our debt repayment threshold and our ability to repay such debt but we did not condemn the project as such because our concept was very similar to the current one. However, credit must be given to Government for persisting with



it and to finally make it a reality. We all will just have to bear the costs and debt, well; at least that's what the Government will ask us.

The Opposition hopes are now raised because I believe that this is a national project and is long overdue. It is absolutely necessary that we finally address our chronic water shortage particularly during the dry season. It is a must and so should not be toyed around as a political issue despite the fact that the Opposition will continue to ask questions just to keep the Government on its toes. It must as we go along be transparent and be opened to public scrutiny.

I accept the fact now that in due course, the Government will have to consider charging consumers for water usage as a way to recoup costs and repay our loan. That seems inevitable and I am glad Minister Heather openly told us at the meeting that perhaps in several years time, that will have to be a

matter of fact. That is being honest with his fellow MP's and with the public. The questions are whether the public will agree with him on charging and costs. I leave that between the Government and the public. The jury is still out for the Opposition on that matter.

All right then, let us look at it this way. The Opposition agrees that this is a needed project and that's why it had the initial plans for it. So in that sense, it must support the project. But it retains the right to criticize things that might not sound or look right. It must do that to be worth the title of being Opposition. However we agree to agree that both sides must come to a position of mutual respect for the sake of our people. Water it seems have had brought out the best in both sides of the political fence. I also wish to thank Minister Heather for the bounty of fish, taro and other delicious food he and his friendly staff had available for us after the meeting. Kia Manuia.

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# PM raises profile in Congress

The Prime Minister Henry Puna fulfilled another day of high level discussions in Washington DC today, conducting a number of calls on Congressional Representatives on Capitol Hill. The busy day culminated in a challenging and friendly-spirited debate around a dinner table in the evening, alongside New Zealand's Ambassador to the United States Mike Moore, and specially invited guests.

The Prime Minister's second day in the US capital began with a meeting at the Office of USAID with Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg. The call allowed a useful exchange of information about the progress of US assistance to the Pacific and how the Cook Islands may approach help from USAID in terms of national priorities, particularly on Climate Change issues.

The delegation was escorted to Capitol Hill to meet with the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Sub-Committee Congressman Steve Chabot (Republican - Ohio) and Ranking Member of the Sub-Committee, Congressman Eni Faleomavaenga (Democrat - American Samoa). The Prime Minister said his luncheon engagement with the Subcommittee members



Eni PM Puna and Ulu

provided an excellent opportunity to promote the Cook Islands' profile.

The Ulu of Tokelau was also on Capitol Hill with the Prime Minister, having also been a special guest in Washington DC for the Pacific Day occasion.

Puna was able to spend further time with Faleomavaenga and get an appreciation of how the US is engaged in the Pacific, including the constraints in developing a higher priority

for the Region in the political landscape of Washington DC. The Prime Minister spent time observing the proceedings in the House of Representatives, sitting in the public gallery during votes on the floor.

The Prime Minister said he was impressed not only by the political machinations of Congressional procedure but also that constituents from all over the States had relatively easy access to their Reps.

Puna was pleased to meet one of the Congressional

Representatives from Hawaii, American Samoa-born Tulsi Gabbard. The Congresswoman has an impressive military background, having served in Iraq and two tours of combat duty in the Middle East, as well as an equally significant record in political life. Now at Federal level, she was the youngest person to have been elected into State politics at 21 years old.

The Prime Minister has a third and final day of engagements in Washington DC, on Wednesday.

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# Rugby Union gets the chop

The Cook Islands Rugby Union's first woman President, Lara Sadaraka comes into office confronted with challenges that would scare the pants off anyone. The world rugby Cabinet, the International Rugby Board (IRB) has just slashed her budget.

Once upon a time the CIRU was receiving \$NZ160,000.00 a year in IRB funding. In recent times that was reduced significantly by a drop in exchange rates for the Euro and a funding chop. Current funding depending if the exchange rate is favourable is \$NZ75,000.00.

With a bigger population base, regional tier one rugby playing countries Fiji, Samoa and Tonga share over \$NZ15 million between them in IRB funding. These three have high performance units that separate them from the rest when it comes to regional tournaments.

"We are a mouse among the elephants," joked an undaunted Sadaraka.

It hasn't helped that depopulation has plummeted the registered player's roster as it is part of the funding calculations. Without a paid administrator the code would deteriorate beyond repair said recently departed President Chris McKinley. "If you took Ben (Koteka) out of the equation everything gained over the last ten years would be lost."

The Rugby World Cup qualifying tournament in Papua New Guinea in July will have no Cook Islands resident players in

the team due to availability and financial constraints. While the IRB cover costs from Auckland the CIRU have to fund the expense of getting the players to and from Auckland on returning.

"That's a very disappointing set back but that's the reality of our situation," said Sadaraka. "Thankfully the New Zealand Cook Islands Rugby Association financially helps out by selling apparel and holding fundraising events."

Sadaraka is optimistic about the future of Cook Islands rugby. "It's no use dwelling on what we haven't got, we just have to work smart and get maximum results from the opportunities we get presented."

Recently an approving club rugby official said of the new President, "Lara is a walking, talking encyclopaedia of Cook Islands rugby."

Sadaraka said she knew these are difficult days but would maintain a positive mind frame. She said being the first female President was challenging but is appreciative of the support she has received. With a growing list of Cook Islanders overseas showing an interest in international representation Sadaraka said one of her goals is to develop the Cook Islands Rugby brand into an attractive sponsorship product.

"Remember in the 2007 rugby World Cup the Tongan team attracted an Irish sponsor."

"It starts with winning in PNG, it starts with our players



Rugby Union CEO Ben Koteka and Lara Sadaraka

attracting personal followers." Victory over PNG will marginally lift our world ranking. Currently the Cook Islands IRB world ranking is 55 out of 100. We are sandwiched between Bermuda and Chinese Taipei. PNG are 50 and Niue 69.

Sadaraka said as a country we would get global broadcasting exposure if we were able to break into the very competitive World Rugby Sevens circuit. "That's a goal that's not beyond possibility."

It is important that we keep a data base of eligible Cook

Islanders who are playing overseas and find a way to monitor them, said Sadaraka. A volunteer, Sadaraka has big plans and her enthusiasm is infectious. There's every indication she will evolve this spare time hobby into an unpaid full time quest.

Keeping the 2013 domestic competition competitive and development programmes sustainable plus the crucial international presence progressive, Sadaraka and her team certainly have their work cut out for them.

- By George Pitt



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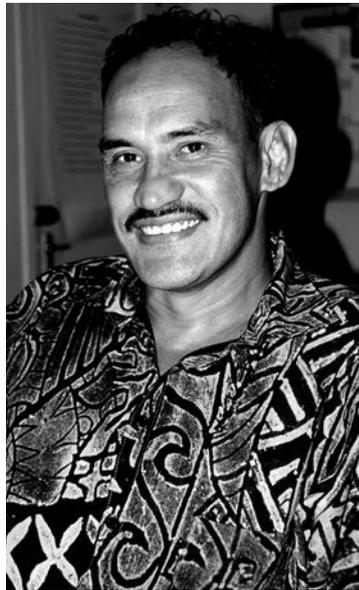
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# Heads of Ministries to sign contracts

This week four Heads of Ministries are expected to sign two year contracts effective from 1st July. All are conditional on a six month probationary period before being confirmed to see out the remaining term of contract.

As expected, the acting Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) Mac Mokoroa gets to drop the acting over second choice veteran George Ellis the CEO of the Cook Islands Pearl Authority.

After 20 years service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Myra Moekaa keeps the gender balance and gets the baton from the retiring Jim Gosselin. Short listed Trevor Pitt the special advisor to the Prime Minister



Mac Mokoroa



Myra Moekaa Patai



Ben Ponia

Henry Puna stays put.

Current Marine Resources Secretary Ben Ponia gets another two years just pipping the Marine's Director of Offshore Fisheries Josh

Mitchell who is now expected to accept a regional option till the position is advertised again.

It's no surprise Alex Henry was over looked for emigrated

Priscilla Metuariki's vacated CEO position at the Public Service Commissioner's Office which goes to a female, the Ministry hopping Daphne Ringi.  
*-By George Pitt*

## Four new appointments on BTIB board

The Minister for the BTIB Hon Mark Brown advises that four new members have been appointed to the Board of the BTIB

The new members were issued their warrants of appointment by the Minister on Monday 17th June, 2013

The new members are Chairman Mr. George Pitt, Mr. Karl Numanga, Mr. Johnstone Dyer Tamaka and Ms Mata Price

Mr. Ngaatikai Pureariki makes up the final number of 5 and is an existing Board member whose term has not yet expired

Minister Brown would like to acknowledge the

contribution and hard work of outgoing Board members Mr. Grant Priest (former Chairman), Mr. Tamatoa Tinirau, Mr. Charles Petero and Mrs Nane Williams.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Board members who have served on the BTIB Board in safeguarding the interests of the Cook Islands. Often this is a thankless job and members spend much of their time away from their families and businesses with minimal financial reward".

The two year terms of the four outgoing Board members had expired over various times in 2008, 2010 and 2011



Former Chairman of Telecom, Environment Service and Te Aponga Uira George Pitt is now chairman of BTIB



# empowering tomorrow's women

## 2013 Westpac Women's Education Grants

Westpac is giving six girls and women the chance to continue their education.

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All local girls and women are encouraged to apply.

### What do I need to do?

Simply answer the following question: what are you doing to make a difference in your community? Why do you do this?

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# Two years to prepare for 2015 target

The Cook Islands embraces the challenge of 50% power generation from renewable sources by 2015.

Steady progress is being made in Rarotonga and so far 720kW of scattered solar systems are connected to the electricity grid. This year TAU is adding more grid-tied solar arrays onto the roofs of targeted government buildings.

By the time 2015 rolls around, it is envisaged 50% of power production will come from the sun and wind.

But this will depend on two factors. The first factor depends on the level of intermittent energy the grid is able to carry without causing any system performance concerns or requiring energy storage. At this stage, we do not really know. But we will find out as we go along connecting renewable energy generators and monitoring their impact on the grid as they are added one by one. TAU wants to avoid the use of storage



The Control Room

batteries to balance energy fluctuations because of the high cost that doing so would entail.

The second factor relies on energy efficiency campaigns such as the free CFL lights project successfully reducing reduce consumer demand for energy which would make it easier to achieve the target of 50%.

Meanwhile the upgrades at the Avatiu Power Station continue unabated. They are based on a 2008 report prepared by a team of

Australian engineering consultants. Some of the upgrades will be critical to managing increases in renewable generation, for instance the complete upgrade of the control systems at the power house will enable a move away from manual operation and towards automatic. That particular upgrade is important to help cope with inputs from energy sources that are particularly prone to fluctuation.

However, the energy landscape in the

Islands has clearly changed. So some members of the original team that prepared the 2008 report are now reviewing its contents, and updating its conclusions and recommendations to reflect the changed (and changing) environment and primarily in light of Government's renewable energy targets of 50% by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

TAU is confident the energy infrastructures will be built and ready in time for the first target of 2015.





## *Congratulations to Te-Aruru o te Rangī Taka'i*

**O**ur woman of the month for the month of June is Te-Aruru-o-te-Rangī Taka'i, commonly known as Mama Ruru. She is a woman who is very passionate about her nursing career, religion and her faith in God. Mama Ruru has been recognized by the Mothers of the Pue Maternal Child Health Clinic for her contribution and involvement in the community as a Public Health Nurse. Our woman of the month was born in the year 1943, she is the 5th eldest of 15 children. Her mother's name is Elizabeth Taka'i (nee Marama) and father's name is Taka'i Ngatokorua, from Rarotonga.

A large part of Mama Ruru's community involvement is through her Community Health Nursing. That includes monitoring and assessing the growth and development of children, immunization, providing health care services, promoting health care services through health information and assisting fellow nurses with the preparation of the annual baby show. Mama Ruru also has the significant role of ensuring the highest possible Reproductive Health care to women, during pregnancy, child birth and postnatal, which involves post natal health checks for mother and baby at home, educating the mothers in terms of family planning, breast feeding, caring of the baby and safety at home. She visits the elderly on a regular basis, provides nursing services to the Are Pa Metua, carries out health checks on diabetes and hypertension, monitors oral medication and supports families and caregivers.

Mama Ruru has carried out in the community.

- 1973-1974** – Child Welfare Organisation (N.G.O.), Cook Island
  - promoting health programs on radio, Cook Islands
  - promoting good health and nutrition in clinics, Cook Islands
  - ante-natal and post natal mothers and babies in clinics, Cook Islands
- 1974 Aug.** Resigned and migrated to NZ after serving 14 years and 6 months
- 1974 – 2002** Active Cook Island language interpreter, Auckland/Princess Mary/Starship/Middlemore and Greenlane Hospitals
- 1996 – 1997** - Community, Church and Voluntary work, Providing free meals to the homeless and street kids on Queen street and K-Road, as a member of the Ponsonby SDA Church.



Te-Aruru o te Rangī Taka'i - Women of the month of June

- 1999 – 2000** Member of the Cook Island Nurses Association, National Heart Foundation and Arthritis Gout Foundation. Cook Islands Health Promoter on Radio Access and Pacific Islands Radio Station, and Aotearoa Radio. Conducting Health Promotion workshops in the Community, such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Nutrition.
- March 2000** Community Voluntary workshops on diabetes, blood pressure, Nutrition on Mangaia and Rarotonga – Geneva Health International Auckland Hospital
- May 2002** – Voluntary work in the community for workshops on diabetes, hypertension, nutrition on Atiu, Mitiaro and Mauke
- February – March 2003** Voluntary Services to schools and communities on Aitutaki

Throughout her nursing career, Mama Ruru has helped many patients transferred from Rarotonga Hospital to Princess Mary,

Starship, Green Lane and Auckland Hospitals. She would often visit and pray with them and give support to grieving families. She would assist them in finding accommodation within the Auckland Hospital compound and act as a hospital social worker to get them financial support. On many occasions she has also provided winter and summer clothing from Hospital comfort and the Salvation Army for patients and relatives. She has been involved with our people in New Zealand for 28 years.

A very keen gardener her caring and giving attitude stems from her family upbringing and faith in God. Mama Tearuru is also a strong supporter for netball and rugby, and played for Ngatangia School and Tupapa.

A member of the SDA Church she fellowships at the Avarua SDA Church. Her strong faith in God has led her to become a Member of Dorcas Welfare, Cook Islands, Health Temperance Leader from 1990 to 1991 in New Zealand, Adcare Member SDA (Dorcas) in New Zealand from 1990 to 2002, Deaconess position in the Ponsonby Church in 2002 and today is still an active member of Pathfinders Seventh Day Adventist.

"I have served in this profession for 50 years and more (Raro/NZ), enjoying the experiences and challenges duties bring. After all these years I am still interested and thoroughly enjoy dealing with patients and every aspect of my chosen profession," says Mama Ruru.

We wish our woman of the month a prosperous year ahead of her.

**KOUTU NUI: `UIPĀ`ANGA MA`ATA 2013**

**tātā`ia `e Ruterā Taripo**

I roto i tēia `epetoma nei, Ru`irua 18 Tiūnu ki te Varaire 20 Tiūnu, te rave `ia nei tēta`i `Uipā`anga Ma`ata pu`apinga tikai ki roto i te ngutu`are (hostel) o te `iti-tangata Pukapuka, `ē ka `akaoti atu te reira a te Paraparau rā 20.

Ko te 39 `anga mata`iti `uipā`anga ma`ata tēia a te Koutu Nui o te Kūki `Airani nei. Ko Apai Mata`iapo, te kūtōroroi no te tūorooro atu i te kātōatoa ki runga i te paepae o te `iti-tangata Pukapuka, kua rave mai i reira te `orometua Rev.Patia i te pure no tēia `akakoro`anga. Kua `o`ora atu te perētiteni o te Kōutu Nui koia ko Turi Mata`iapo (Maria Henderson) i tāna karere `āriki`anga i te au Mata`iapo `ē te au Rangatira o te Kōutu Nui ki tēia `Uipā`anga Ma`ata. I reira kua `akatu`era`ia atu te `akakoro`anga ē Te Kaumāiti o te Are Ariki, koia ko Tou Ariki. Kua riro rāi `oki e nana, na Tou Ariki i `akakeu atu i te au anoano`anga pu`apinga no tēia `uipā`anga, na roto i te pātia`anga mai i tēta`i au manako pu`apinga tikāi mei te `ākara matatio i te au taonga kōpu tangata `ē tō rātou au `akano`ono`o`anga `ē te `akamana`anga, koia oki mei teia e taria nei ki roto i te are `akavā`anga. Kāre e tau ana i raro ake i te `ākono`anga Māori. Te `akakite nei aia ē te anoano katoa `ia nei oki kia tā`anga`anga putuputu`ia tō tātou Reo Māori i te au rā kātōatoa kia tau ki te tumu-tāpura nui no tēia `Uipā`anga Ma`ata, koia `oki ko te “`Akamātūtū`anga i te tūranga Arataki o te Aronga Mana o te Kūki `Airani”

Kua rave katoa `ia tēta`i tu`anga puapinga, i te Ru`irua te rā mua, koia `oki ko te `akaō atu `anga `ē 22 au Mataiapo `ē te au Rangatira ki roto i te Kōutu Nui. Mē ka tae mai te toe `e 6 ka rave katoa`ia atu te reira.

Kua rave `ia i reira te `uipā`anga ma`ata na roto i te `uri`uri`anga i tēta`i au tumu manako o te rā, te kā `ora`ora`ia mai. Mei te tu`anga o te Kaiou Moni mei te Pangika `ē te au manamanatā e tupu nei, te tu`anga o te Tero. I tēia rā Ru`itoru, ka uriuri ia te au manako no te Marine Park `ē pērā te `Akono`anga Māori o runga i te au Pā`enua `ē pērā katoa te au Paepae rongonui. Pērā katoa, ka `uri`uri`ia tēta`i au manako no runga i te au manamanatā e ō nei tā tātou au māpū ki rotou. □pōpō, ka `ākara`ia atu tēta`i au `akano`ono`o`anga o te Kōutu Nui ma te `iki mai i tēta`i au `aka`aere `ōu.

No reira teia `aka`ōu te tumu-tāpura nui no tēia `Uipā`anga Ma`ata, koia `oki ko te “`Akamātūtū`anga i te tūranga Arataki o te Aronga Mana o te Kūki `Airani”

***Tēta`i au Mataiapo `ē te Rangatira i roto i te `Uipā`anga Ma`ata ā te KOUTU NUI***



# A fairer say for women

By Charles Pitt

**V**iolence against women is probably the most important topic being tackled by the Gender Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs according to Director Ruta Pokura.

It is certainly one of several important issues being considered under CEDAW-the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The Gender Division is responsible for coordinating the implementation of CEDAW.

Ruta says the Ministry must report to the United Nations on the implementation of CEDAW in the Cook Islands every four years. The first report was submitted to the UN in 2007. The second report was due in 2011 but will be submitted along with the third report by 20 November 2014.

The work of the Division will actually cover six main areas says Ruta. These are; empowerment of women in economic affairs, violence against women, impact on gender of climate change, health issues, education and mainstreaming gender issues into government ministries.

There are other areas of concern to the Gender Division which are the rights of the Child and the disabled.

There are also issues involving salaries, teenage pregnancy, unemployment and issues pertaining to the outer islands.

In education, there are concerns with accommodating young women from the outer islands who are attending college on Rarotonga. Some are housed at the hostels and some with local families. Some young women have become pregnant and some distracted by the way and pace of Rarotonga life.

The Division is monitoring the implementation of the new Employment Relations Act. Young mothers wishing to re-enter the work force are having some problems especially in the outer islands where employment is restricted. Prior to the legislation coming in, young pregnant women were being laid off work and Ruta says this is still happening.

Ruta says the Crimes Act is still being worked on. The proposed Act does not recognize marital rape and that is a concern.

A draft Family Law bill has been around since 2010 and will include protection for the child, maintenance and protection orders.

Ruta says the Division is working with Statistics Division on developing a Gender Profile. From this they hope to disclose the status of women in leadership and other areas. An expert from the SPC is assisting with this. It should produce data to assist the provision of sound advice to the Minister.

One sensitive issue being researched says Ruta is the



Ruta Pokura

connection, if any, between tourism and prostitution. The question is, "Is it happening?" Alternatively, is it happening under the guise of tourism but through another activity? For example, as an offshoot of a tourism related activity?

During the year there are two major events for the Division says Ruta. These are; International Women's day held in March and the 16 day of events, November 25-December 10, marking Violence against women, White Ribbon day 25 November and ending with Human Rights day.

This year the Cook Islands will also host the Pacific Women's Triennial Conference from October 20-25. It's been 10 years since the Cook Islands last hosted the event.

Ruta has been Director since 2007. Prior to that she was the Programme Research Officer and prior to that she worked at the Ministry of Justice for 10 years. She is assisted by Programme Research Officer Tupopongi Marsters who has been in the position for one year after coming from the Ministry of Education.



## Ministry of Internal Affairs

### GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Working to reduce all forms of discrimination against women
- Ensuring equal rights, opportunities and benefits for men and women in government, the workplace, community and family

# The role of the Public Accounts Committee

*By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition*

Over the last couple of years, exchanges between our Parliament and the Parliament of West Australia resulted in our Parliament adopting some procedures and mechanisms to make our Parliamentary system more effective and accountable. One of those, and a significant one at that, is the formation of the Public Accounts Committee. Its aim when Parliament voted to establish the committee was to enable an independent body comprised of Parliamentarians from both sides of the House to inquire and then report back to Parliament on Government expenditure and finance.

The set up of the committee created some concerns from me as Leader of the Opposition because the better practice was for such committee to be chaired by the Opposition. This was to avoid Government MP's on it not criticizing their Government when findings of the committee discover irregularities in Government conduct. The Government decided to hold the chairmanship within their ranks but it has been warned that the Opposition may withdraw membership if there are clear favours towards government when that was not to be.

Over the last few months the committee has been summoning Heads of Ministries and their staff to give updates of their situations to arm the committee with knowledge of the status of such Government agencies. It has not been plain

sailing however, despite the fact that this is a Parliamentary Committee and Parliament being the highest authority of the land. Some HOM's dismissed the committee as intrusive and some felt not obliged to answer to the committee. Some takes the view that the Committee was searching for things to do and clearly it was and it duplicates the role of audit and Perca. The Secretary of Finance for instance threw a curly one in there when he refused to front up to the committee and talk about the budget before it was to be formally announced by the Cabinet and Minister of Finance. He might have a point there, but the committee appears to be still in its teething stage.

However the committee has now come to some prominence when it was tasked by the Government and by Parliament to review the Cola Gate saga. This prompted the committee to develop Terms of Reference to give it some sense of soundness and robustness and indeed integrity. Hence the objectives of PAC are to review the practice of invoice splitting as espoused in an Audit Report dealing with CITC being accused of benefiting from huge tax customs duty discounts from the practice. PAC was also to review procedures and practices by importers under law and specific performances of public servants in such matters. Lastly PAC is to report its findings to Parliament and it must conduct itself according to the Parliamentary Standing Orders.

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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### Best ever Android Apps

#### IMDb Movies & TV

The next time you can't remember the name of an actor, television show, or film, IMDb Movies & TV saves the day. One of the handiest reference websites on the planet, IMDb never fails when it comes to looking up anything that has to do with TV, film, or Hollywood. The app also lets you find which movies are playing at your local cinema, and even purchase tickets. With an IMDb account (free or paid for Pro), the app provides even more features, like the ability to create a watchlist of movies you want to see.

#### OverDrive Media Console

OverDrive lets you borrow EPUB eBooks and audiobooks in MP3 format, from a global network of more than 13,000 libraries. The biggest drawback is that you have to store files locally, which hogs both memory and battery.

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# First cruise passengers to use new jetty



History was made on Wednesday morning when Passengers from the Cruise Ship Paul Gauguin became the first passengers to use the Jetty at the alternative landing site in Arorangi next to the Primary School.

## Opportunity for disabled bowlers to compete in the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow

By *Tuitui Ngakau Mata Ka Ipeipe, Esq*

**B**owls Cook Island's National Chairman of Selectors, Mr George Paniani has today called on bowlers, with a physical disability who are interested in reaching the highest lofts the sport has to offer to come forward.

Paniani is calling on bowlers with a disability from all Islands and of course Rarotonga, who are drawn to the proposition of representing the Cook Islands in the Green and Gold at the 2014, Commonwealth Games in Glasgow to submit an 'express of interest' to Bowls Cook Islands. It is a wonderful opportunity, this is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity for some of these players to represent in a fit capacity, their country.

Bowls Cook Islands are searching for athletes who meet one of the following criteria, although it is not imperative that you already attained classification as required. Disability 3 categories are as follows:

Bowls athletes with a Disability categories

- B6: Ambulant and wheelchair bowlers with reduced balance function but able to bowl a full length end.

- B7: Ambulant and wheelchair bowlers with minor balance problems

- B8: Ambulant bowlers, who have a permanent and irreversible disability, but have no noticeable impairment of function.

In order to express an interest to participate at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games under, the disability bowlers with discipline still need to be confirmed by world bowls. Bowls Cook Islands require you to contact Secretary General, Anna Kairua Mobile 54558, to register your interest.

Should the interest warrant a competition to be held to determine a champion required by the world bowls to represent the Cook Islands, then so be it. We, Bowls Cook Islands will carry out that task.



# A Cook Islands artist in Frisco

By Charles Pitt

Fifty one year old Cook Islander Tunui John Ngariki, has been working as a full time artist in San Francisco for the last 23 years.

John contacted the Herald last week and shared these few words.

He was born in Ngatangiaa, Rarotonga and grew up in Ureia, Aitutaki. He went to school in Tokoroa, New Zealand.

John, who is divorced with no children, thinks he's the only Cook Islander in San Francisco and thinks there are perhaps 5 Cook Islanders in the wider Bay Area which has a population of over 7 million people.

A self taught artist, John says he sells his paintings mainly to tourists and is inspired by artists like Raul Dufy, Gori and Sempe. The pieces he exhibits at Cafes do include Cook Islands motifs.

San Francisco has a thriving art scene says John hence there's a lot of competition.

Water colour is John's main medium now and because it is difficult to control it sets him apart from the other painters who mainly delve in acrylic and oil.

John says he has met a couple of Cook Islanders at the place he bases himself, Justin Herman Plaza near the Ferry Building. He says if you ask for the Plaza Manager they'll direct you to him.

His subject matter for the plaza is mainly iconic landmarks of San Francisco, like the Golden Gate bridge, which he draws and paints from memory. John has over 1,000 original water color paintings on hand (in folders and frames). He also does commissioned work of people's home towns by using Google image from his smart



Tunui John Ngariki

phone.

As for portraits (and because it is watercolor he mainly uses) it is a little more difficult to do, although he does them - just prove that it's not impossible. Otherwise he uses acrylic for portraits and other Cook Island/Polynesian themed pieces.

John says while watercolor lends itself to San Francisco; it's not so for Cook Island motifs. (Paris can also comfortably be depicted in water color - at least the style he employs allows him to, but each time he tried painting certain cities like New York, it doesn't want to work. John finds himself portraying New York in acrylic or something more robust like oil).

John says he has an urge to paint Tokoroa in water colour. He hasn't done it yet, but thinks it will posit nicely. As for Aitutaki scenery, he thinks water color may work too.

John told the Herald he has written a 302 page novel entitled "Once Were Cannibals" and has self published it on lulu.com. From what John says, while his own family expressed some concerns, readers will have to make up their own minds after reading the book, about the references to ghosts and the Devil.

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/john-n-tunui/once-were-cannibals/paperback/product-21064044.html>

He said the book tells the story of a young boy growing up on Aitutaki. He admits he used his own childhood to pull together the entire plot dealing with exit migration of the people and of course ghosts.

In his book he also discusses how we influenced Western Art, particularly the Modern Art movement which took root in Europe at the turn of

the 20th Century and spread to the rest of the world. According to John this was through our curios, (meaning Oceania and Africa, because both were observed at the same time) through our wood carvings, tapestry, and other devices. It's a dangerous proposition says John but one he's quite prepared to stand by.

John says he will be receiving his own copies of the book in a few weeks, at which point he'll send copies out for reviewing.

John says he would like to visit Aitutaki soon as it is dear to his heart and he looks forward to travelling hopefully when the namu mosquito is under control - but then, says John, it wouldn't be Aitutaki.

The last time he ate tupa from Amuri was in 1982.

Finally John says-"Kia orana Uriuriapunga ma to vaka tangata katoa."

## ‘IRI‘IRI- KĀPUA: Na te Au Konitara Tūtara te au `Aka`aere o runga i te au `Enua Tātakita`i

*Tata'ia e Rutera Taripo*

I tēia epetoma, i te ora 9 i te au pōpongi mei te Monitē rā 17 Tiūnu, te rave `ia nei ki roto i te `Are `Akatakapātoa`anga o te New Hope Church i Parekura, Rarotonga tēta`i `Iri`iri`anga-kāpua nā te au Konitara Tūtara (Mayors) `ē tō rātou au `Aka`aere (Executive Officers) o te aronga `anga`anga Kavamani `Enua o runga i te au pā`enua tātakita`i. I te pae iā Pāmāti, kua tae mai ki Rarotonga nei te ma`ata`anga o te au Konitara Tūtara mei tai mai no tēia `akakoro`anga pu`apinga e rave`ia nei.

Ko te tāpura nui o tēia `Iri`iri-Kāpua koia oki `ko te `akaari atu ki te au Mayors `ē to rātou au Executive Officers tā rātou `anga`anga i raro ake i te ture `ōu o te Kavamani `Enua`.

Ko tēta`i au tumu manako pu`apinga tei anoano`ia kia `ora`ora `ia atu `ē kia `uri`uri `ia koia oki ko:

- tā rātou au `anga`anga tei `akano`o `ia kia rave`ia
- te au aronga `anga`anga i raro ake i te `akaterere`anga ā te Kavamani `Enua
- te tu`anga `akateretere o te moni
- te rīpoti`anga ki te Minītiri o te `Akapapa`anga Moni, te au `akapou`angā moni

`ē te vai atūra tēta`i atu au manako kekē.

Ko te `akateretere o tēia `Iri`iri-Kāpua e rave`ia nei ko Otheniel Tangianau, te Director o te Pā `Enua `ē i te tauturu atu ko John Tangi te Technical Advisor `ē Graham Powell te Legal Advisor. Ko te Varaire rā 21 Tiūnu te rā `openga o tēia `Iri`iri-Kāpua.



Otheniel Tangianau



John Tangi. Graham Powell



Konitara Tūtara `ē te au `Aka`aere



Konitara Tūtara `ē te au `Aka`aere

# Island girl goes a-wandering *Part 2*

*Last week Carmel recounted her trip home to Australia. This week she reports on her trip to Europe*

*By Carmel Beattie*

**N**ext time came a few weeks later when I set off on a long anticipated trip to Italy via a few other places and that trip only proved that I had been wrong in my earlier assertion!

It began on a Saturday night flight to LA which was busy but I managed a little extra room to ensure a comfortable flight. I was picked up at the airport by a great friend who proceeded to whisk me around LA to a range of malls. Now, for anyone of us who has been to the US, the first rush of consumerism is hard to forget – the choice! the bargains! the sizes! I had a small list of essentials that I needed but was, of course, swept up in the fever however there is only so many 40% off with a further 20% off bargains that you can get before you either run out of funds while saving or you have to buy an extra suitcase to ship all your purchases home separately – thereby spending your savings – a curious phenomenon!

On to London and I arrived on a cold, wet afternoon and waited for the taxi that I had ordered and paid for weeks before – stress mounting as I had to travel between Heathrow and Gatwick airports in peak hour to catch my flight to Ireland. Now, why I would put myself through this is debatable but suffice to say, I spent a very tense hour or so wondering if I was going to make this journey right around London in time to catch my flight. I did catch it but not before re-enacting all those long frantic runs

down airport concourses that I had done in my many years of living in Europe and had sworn never to repeat.

Catching a Ryanair flight also tips you over the edge of further stress because there is no set seating and as the flight is announced, the entire population of the gate lounge rises as one to surge to the door to avoid the dreaded ‘middle row’! My big city skills had reinstated themselves sufficiently that I managed a window seat and was able to watch as we landed in beautiful, freezing Shannon airport. I know Ireland well and have experienced its particular brand of cold many times but as Ryanair only allows you carry on baggage of 7kgs, I arrived and spent most of my time there looking like the Michelin man swathed in several sweaters to keep out the cold and preserve the carry on! I loved spending time with my friends of course and being back in this gorgeous country but even with the help of hot whiskies, I am cured of ever wanting to live there!

After an overnight in London which followed the same pattern, I at last headed off to my main destination – Bella Italia! One of my favourite places in the world and a country where I have always thought I could settle – well...I did! Don't get me wrong - it was sensational! A large group of friends from Australia, the US, Italy and Germany were spending the week together on an amazing estate in Tuscany,

being wined and dined in magnificent style while touring around this stunning province and all of this being provided for by an incredibly generous couple of friends. Nothing to complain about there!

We began to strategise about how we were going to cope with all the food - will I eat every 2nd course or just half of each course? Do I need that Baileys after all the wine or should I throw caution to the winds – we usually did and that's what we were there to enjoy – a beautiful country, incredible hospitality and all in the company of amazing and interesting friends. Each day, we toured out and about to see experience Tuscany in all its glory and that is where I realised that maybe Italy, although still one of my favourites, is not my heart home.

Pisa, on a Sunday afternoon in May..... thronging crowds around the Leaning Tower and its accompanying Baptistery and Cathedral. I suddenly realised that in that piazza were more people than in my entire country - and that was just a lazy Sunday! On to Florence on another day and the Duomo was packed with people and movement was reduced to a shuffle. Thinking about the people living in these beautiful cities, I empathised with the interruption to their lives which while providing wealth to the city and the country and to individuals, has a negative effect on their day to day life. If you live in an exquisite medieval town

but you can't get out of your doorway for visitors, it must be hard to love them!

It was a lesson in managing Tourism to maintain the fine balance between economic development and community degradation – part of the joy of visiting new places is experiencing the people and the way in which they live and in some of these European cities today, the only thing that you experience is the buildings and other tourists!

The other lesson was in realising that while I had a little giant shiny designer shopping bag envy, I didn't feel the need to visit the designer outlets – ok, those skinny outfits wouldn't fit anyway BUT the bags and shoes would! Several of my Australian friends visited and came away with the aforesaid bags but they live a city life where labels are more important and formal clothes are necessary. We are so lucky here to live in a climate where light clothes are all we need, where life is casual and designer labels are not an expectation and the streets are never crowded even on our busiest days – I am never complaining about traffic again, well not until this wears off!

I arrived home a few kgs heavier – but I am back at the gym – several dollars lighter – but I have some gorgeous earrings! And even more aware of the fact that ‘be it ever so humble, there is no place like home’ and that is where this island girl is well and truly at!

# How to persevere in life

part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I was speaking on this theme of How To Persevere In Life. The scripture reading is II Corinthians 4v.1-18. In this passage, the Apostle Paul gave some important lessons on How To Persevere In Life. Paul was a determined and persistent person. Twice in our reading Paul said "we do not loose heart...meaning don't give up... or don't quit" In v.8-9 Paul said "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." The question is 'What did Paul do in those hopeless and impossible situations?' Paul's response was "I simply kept on keeping on. I did not quit!" What was his secret? What motivated him to keep going? Paul is encouraging us to keep on keeping on and doing what is right.

**Lesson 1.** is REMEMBER THAT GOD LOVES YOU v.1 reads "Since therefore, through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." Paul is saying that God has mercy for him, God loves him! God also loves us!

**Lesson 2.** is MAINTAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE v. 2 reads "Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways. We do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. We commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." Paul said, "I'm transparent. I don't have anything to hide. I don't deceive anybody. I don't distort the Word of God. I'm honest and I'm a person of integrity." If we want to last in life, we got to have integrity.

**Lesson 3.** is HAVE THE RIGHT MOTIVATION The question is: Why do we do what we do? What was Paul's motivation? v. 5 reads "For we do not preach ourselves,

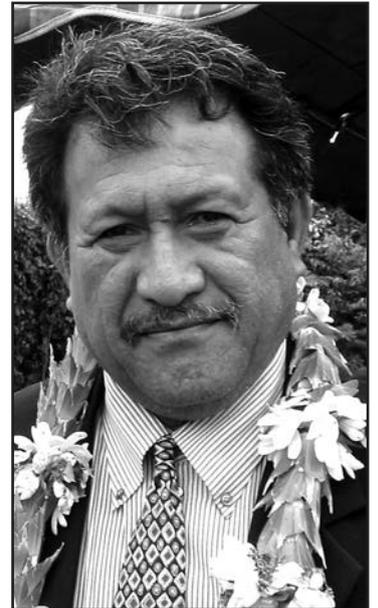
## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." If we ask Paul, "Why he did what he did?" In II Corinthians 11v.24-28 he says, "Five times I received from the Jews forty lashes minus one, three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a day and a night in the open sea, I've been in constant danger, without food, without sleep -- thirst, hunger, food, cold. Besides this I've faced the daily pressures of concern for all the churches." He says it's been a tough life. But why did he travel everywhere? He says, "I did it for Jesus' sake." Why did he put up with the cold and suffering? "I did it for Jesus' sake." Why did you put up with discomfort when you could have given up and gone home and retired? "I did it for Jesus sake." Why did you keep on keeping on, and you never gave up? "I did it for Jesus' sake." That's the motivation that will take you through to the end of life. Have the right motivation. Colossians 3v.23 says "Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not as unto men." That will give you motivation. Whatever you've got to do, do it as unto the Lord. Have the proper motivation.

**Lesson 4.** is ACCEPT OUR LIMITATIONS The quickest way to burn out is to try to be superman. We got to recognize that we are not God! We have weaknesses and faults. Paul said in v.7 of our reading "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show the all surpassing power is from God and not ourselves." Jars of clay, refers to our frail bodies. Paul

said, I've got the greatest message in the world, but I've got it in this clay pot. It has weaknesses and may even be a little cracked and will break easily if they're not handled right. We got to recognize our limitations and learn to pace ourselves. Paul says, don't deny your weakness, accept it because God's power is shown through us. This is called pacing growth. You learn to pace yourself. God takes you so far and then you grow. Then He takes you another step and you grow, and so on. Learn to pace yourself. May you have a God blessed week!



### VACANCY



#### OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

##### Technical Assistance to Draft Electrical Appliance Labelling and Standards Regulation

Applications are invited to draft the first Cook Islands Electrical Appliance Labelling and Standards Regulation.

The successful applicant would have as a minimum:

- A Law Degree.
- 5 years of demonstrated experience in drafting Legislation & Regulations.
- Experience in drafting Electrical Appliance Labeling and Standards Regulations would be an advantage.
- Fluent in both oral and written English.

The Terms of Reference contains further competencies which can be downloaded from [www.pmoffice.gov.ck](http://www.pmoffice.gov.ck). Please address applications to Mr Tangi Tereapii, PALS Legal TA, Director, Renewable Energy Development Division, Office of the Prime Minister. Applications close Friday 21 June at 3:00pm.

### PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

#### Foreign Enterprises-Annual Returns Due

To All Foreign Enterprises registered with the Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB)-Your Annual Returns are to be filed by the 30th of June 2013. These may be submitted to our office or via email to Ria Arthur [ria.arthur@btib.gov.ck](mailto:ria.arthur@btib.gov.ck)

# Reports are out soon! Argh!

*By Norma Ngatamariki*

Hello, my dear readers! How have you been? Hopefully, your week has been going waaay better than mine. For this week's topic, I have chosen something that school kids dread (or look forward too, depending on how you've behaved in class). The reports on their academic progress for half of the year. It summarizes all you've learnt from January to June on tiny pieces of paper, with all of your grades revealed. I have to say, I don't fancy my grades being shown to my parents (especially if they're bad!) but hey, what can you do?

At the beginning of the year (during Term One), students don't really care about their reports. I mean, why should

they? Reports don't come out in six more months! What they don't realise is that all they work that they're doing, whether it be in classroom discussions or during clean up in Anau time, you are being monitored. If you really think about it, it's a scary thing, being supervised and under the scrutiny of your teachers. But in the long run, the results will eventually show on your reports.

With that being said, the school has a system which helps students to "stay on track". It's called the Traffic Light Interviews. As the name suggests, the interviews are in accordance with the colours Green, Orange and Red. Green means that you have nothing to worry about, and that everything is going smoothly

(consider yourself lucky if you get one of these). Orange says, "You aren't bad, but you're not good either, so you better do something about it" (that's the best way I can interpret it, really). Red is the colour you should be worried about. It's a signal that means "Woah! You've got some serious catching up to do, man!". These interviews are only meant for the senior students (that's Years 11, 12 and 13 to you) because gaining NCEA credits (the whole purpose for these interviews) is really important. If you don't want to repeat a level, then do your best to not get a Red traffic light.

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. Some kids don't take the Mid-Year Report all that seriously and think, "Oh, it's only half way

through the year! My results will be even better in the End of Year Report. So why bother?" In my opinion, I think that's a loser's way of thinking (not to mention, a tad bit lazy). You should give it your all throughout the entire year. If you did badly in one assessment, then try your best in the next one and get a better grade! Achieved, Merit and Excellence grades will all look pretty in your reports (well, they're a step up from Not Achieved) and it'll make Mum and Dad very happy. That's another thing kids should take into consideration. Your parents will be receiving those reports and scrutinizing them as well. If I ever got an NA, I think my mum would get out the kikau broom (as well as giving me a stern lecture)

# The Caucasian Chalk Circle

*By Hareta Tira Passfield*

Parent teacher interviews are coming up soon, I'm really not looking forward to it! I'm praying for good comments! This week has been pretty okay so far, nothing terrible.....yet. There is still 2 more days to go. Anything can happen.

Anyway back to what I'm actually supposed to be writing about. The Caucasian Chalk Circle is a play written in 1944 by a German writer Bertolt Brecht. It's about a peasant girl who rescues a baby after the real mother abandons the child during a time of war to save her dresses. The peasant girl becomes a better mother than the baby's real mother.

The play was originally written

in German but translated into English a few months later. It was first performed at Carleton College in Minnesota, USA.

You're probably wondering why I chose to write about such a different topic, and its because in about two weeks time the Tereora senior classes will be performing the Caucasian Chalk Circle at the Nikao hall. I was lucky enough to get a part in the play as the evil mother who abandons her child to save her fancy dresses. According to my mum "I was born to play the role" because I can be a very mean person at times. So far it's been an amazing experience, I've gotten so much closer to my peers, and have become like a family over the past few weeks. We have been spending

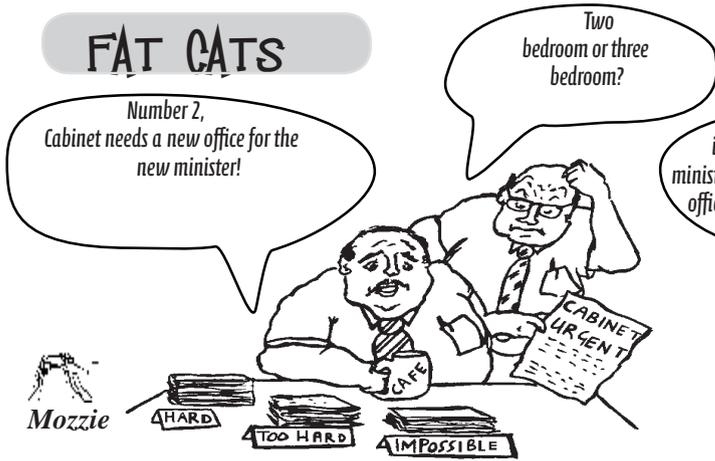
time in class, after school and during the weekend to make this play perfect. It's been hard learning all my lines but I have it easy compared to some people. Some of my friends are playing up to six characters!

This play would not have been possible without our amazing drama teacher Mr Payne. He has honestly taught me so much and I know I'm not the only one who has benefitted from such an amazing teacher. He make's everything so much fun, even learning lines and I know from past experiences how boring that can be. A lot of hard work has gone into this play, not only by actors that will be performing on the night but also by the costume people and lighting people and also not forgetting

our directors.

Please come down to the Nikao hall and support the senior Tereora students. There is only a gold coin entry and that is pretty cheap if I do say so myself. There will be two showings of the play. The nights following the drama performance the Tereora Senior dance class will also be performing and that will be an amazing experience! So not only should you come and support the Tereora senior drama class, you should also come down to support the senior dance class! There is also two showings of the dance performance. I'm sure you all will probably know at least one person in the play. So come on down for one or two nights of awesome entertainment

**FAT CATS**



**COCONUT ROUNDTABLE**



The USP chin wag on the climate was notable for one thing. It was scheduled during what is normally a public servant's lunch break, 12 noon-1pm. So what was a conscientious civil servant to do? Take his lunch from 1pm-2pm of course! Then again little was lost since the government lunch break seems to be from 11am-3pm-eh?



With no plans on the table to develop massive inland water storage lakes to counter future droughts, perhaps government's strategy will be to tender contracts for "Rain Dancers" and set up workshops to teach people "Rain Dancing." A grossly expensive professional Rain Dancer will have to be hired. Well they have to fill those water tanks some how.



With our population shrinking and economy at risk, government seeks to reverse the trend by "thinking small." Only it's not working. \$28 million of ADB dosh was used to upgrade a harbour at Avatiu of use primarily to fishing boats. Too small to berth a medium size cruise liner and in the flight path of aircraft. A brand new port at Nikao opposite parliament was suggested by a great visionary, Don Silk, years ago-and a plan was even drawn up-cost about \$50m. But who takes notice of visionaries?



Where are our major developments to take advantage of the increasing numbers of visitors? If a country's visitor numbers

**CHOOKS CORNER**  
WITH BIG RED



was increasing by nearly 7 per cent per year, do you not think it would be a brilliant idea to actually build some more accommodations? China now has 100 million middleclass travelers near five star level who have pockets full of dosh and looking for somewhere to visit. Has anyone made a move to tap into this potential goldmine? What five star accommodations is government encouraging or supporting? None?



Whisper is Matavera MP and planter Kiriau will be promoted from Associate Minister for Agriculture under Nandi Glassie, to full Minister for Agriculture when Tom, Tom gets the QR seat. Who will the big "K" get as his CEO? Will the big "K" have to take some of Tom Tom's current staff under some sort of deal?



Boosting agricultural production in the outer islands was doomed to fail before it got off the books! Why? Because ask yourself this simple question-"How is all that produce going to get to the main markets in Rarotonga in a fresh state?"

The boat only goes once a fortnight. The planes are too small to carry great loads of freight. Is there a brilliant plan to get the produce to Rarotonga? Well the solution is simple. A Fast Ferry would be helpful! Instead of subsidizing NZ's state owned airline, government could have bought a Fast ferry for a one off cost of US\$10m and contracted out its operation.



A Fast Ferry would boost visitor numbers to the southern group thereby boosting outer islands economies, enabling large quantities of fresh fish to be brought into Rarotonga along with agricultural produce. Transport locals along with sports teams and re-union groups at a cheap fare. Do the outer island harbour upgrades cater for future Fast Ferry sailings? What? No? This means that when and if Fast Ferry sailings begin, further millions will have to be spent on yet more upgrades. Oh cripes, more donor fatigue in the pipeline!



What's the low down on these HOM jobbies chooks? Who has got the nod? Whisper is Myra M a career civil servant

in Affairs de Foreign, has landed the top jobbie in that agency of the State. With the agency whispered to fall under the PM, MM can expect to travel a great deal. And whisper is Daphane Ringi has landed the PSC CEO jobbie. Also Big Mac Mokoroa is whispered to have secured the Infrastructure hot seat.



Look for Patrick Arioka to be appointed Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, under Secretary Dr Matt Porea! Is this a first? Has Herr Dokter got a pile on his plate? Or is the intention to give a stronger policy focus to the Ministry?



A promotion is in the wind for MMM-Mighty Maggie Man! Just as a three star US Army General is awarded a fourth star by the US Congress, so MMM likewise, is to be awarded a fourth "M." He will now be MMMM. "Mighty Maggie Magic Man!" This is in recognition of his recent demonstration of illusionist skills in going from a rampaging, admonishing, Chief Whip to a humble, peaceful, calm, example of complete self control.

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# The Chinese are coming *part two*

*If high bank interest rates, continue to push the Cooks in the direction of China will we be able to control our future?*

*By Charles Pitt*

In part one last week, the proposition was raised that the high interest rates being charged by the two Australian banks, was having an impact on foreign policy development in the Cook Islands.

The population demographic and cultural changes brought about through Cook Islanders and the government having to radically adjust their lives and economy to cope with the high interest rates was having a flow on effect into other areas.

The need to import foreign labour (from Fiji, Philippines, Indonesia) will mean revising immigration and labour market policies bringing about by a re-evaluation of foreign relationships with other Pacific countries including Asia.

If the practices of the Australian banks do not moderate, the diplomatic rhetoric at top political level of Pacific solidarity, will begin to show signs of being undermined as depopulation worsens and societal shifts take place broadening the gaps between the haves and the have nots, the well educated and least educated and tolerance levels across racial and religious sectors.

This may all sound rather gloomy, but societal shifts are already noticed as numbers in different racial groups become more noticeable, the increase in foreigners is bringing new religious practices and shifts in living habits across spending, diet and social behavior.

In short, this impact on foreign policy is forcing the Cook Islands to look increasingly to China for economic relief and this should concern Australian and NZ government foreign policy analysts.

Should Chinese penetration

into Cook Islands affairs at the economic, political and social level be secured, the Australian and NZ governments who are right on our doorstep, will have to ask themselves how they allowed this to happen. The USA will also be asking Australia and NZ how they allowed this to happen.

Chinese people have been in Fiji, Samoa and Tahiti for more than 100 years. In these countries the Chinese have integrated with the locals, inter-married and established businesses. The Chinese were once present in the Cook Islands and there were intermarriages. Although there is no noticeable Chinese presence anymore, it has been estimated that up to one quarter of Cook Islanders have Chinese blood.

Where the Cook Islands is concerned, the Chinese are poised to stage an orchestrated and measured return aimed at securing access to our under tapped marine and mineral resources.

Chinese intelligence, expertise and foresight in international affairs, honed over centuries of practice, is evident in the wording of the "One China Policy" document signed between the Cook Islands and China in Wellington, New Zealand on 25 July 1997. That document contains a clause with the potential to one day open the door for Chinese government involvement directly with the Cook Islands private sector. It says;

"The Government of the People's Republic of China supports the people of the Cook Islands in their efforts to achieve, in full, their objectives in the areas of social, economic and cultural development."

No other Pacific nation has such a clause in their one

China policy document so we were informed recently by two visiting Australian academics during a USP lecture. It is also envisaged that Chinese private sector entrepreneurs will, through their government, access the Cook Islands through this clause.

Leun Thai Fishing Ventures Ltd is one company that has been able to establish a wholly owned business here as it has met the BTIB's investment criteria. Obviously carrying the support of the Chinese government, it also meets the criteria listed in the One China Policy document in that by offering employment and tax contributions it will be assisting the Cook Islands people achieve their economic objectives.

Our government needs to look more closely at or review the ramifications of this clause and consult further with China because while it will open the door to development and investment, some controls will need to be agreed or framework established and observed so that any resulting development is manageable and sustainable.

Any assistance the Chinese could provide to lower interest rates and facilitate development and growth to wean the country off aid dependency, would be welcomed as long as it is within the spirit of the One China Policy document.

In this regard, the new Chinese leadership could consider inviting the government of the Cook Islands to a high level summit or Bilateral discussion to review China's approach to the development of Cook Islands objectives in the three areas specified in the One China Document.

It is envisaged that any such

summit/bilateral may conclude with the signing of an MOU which will progress China's support to a more formal document or undertaking.

Where would this leave Australia and New Zealand? Perhaps their foreign policy analysts could put their minds to work.

The Cook Islands (and Tonga) is unique among Pacific nations in that except for a period of 10 years last century when it was a British protectorate, it has not been under the influence of a super power. The USA laid claim to some islands in the northern group up until as late as 1985 but that was to protect those islands against the black birders press ganging islanders to work in South American mines.

For some reason the Cook Islands has not been regarded by the super powers as being of any strategic importance although during the second world war the Americans constructed airports on Aitutaki and Penrhyn as a precaution to Fiji falling into Japanese hands.

In 1974, during the Vietnam War, Rarotonga airport which is half way between LA and Australia, was upgraded by NZ in case American military aircraft needed to refuel.

When looking at the Pacific region from Guam in the west to Tahiti Nui in the east, it is interesting how Pacific nations line up with various super powers. Samoa and Tonga have a growing Chinese influence. Tahiti is in the pocket of the French. Sitting in the centre in 2 million sqm of ocean with an abundance of fish and 25 per cent of the world's undersea cobalt in manganese nodules, is the Cook Islands with no super power umbrella.

That may all change when seabed mining begins.

PUBLIC NOTICES



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING  
TENDER  
VAIMARU WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE PROJECT - AITUTAKI  
CONTRACT No. C13/01**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the supply of materials for the water supply upgrade at Vaimaru in Aitutaki, Cook Islands.

A copy of the Tender Document including specifications can be collected during work hours from the MOIP office in Arorangi. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 will be required before the tender document is issued.

Tenders close at 3pm on Friday, 28th June 2013, and must be submitted to the MOIP Office in Arorangi and in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Document. Tenders must be submitted in two sets hard copies inside a sealed envelope labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and addressed to:

The Acting Secretary  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning  
Arorangi  
Rarotonga  
Cook Islands

and subsequent markings below to include the following: Tenderers name, contact person, and contact details; "Vaimaru Water Supply Upgrade Project; Contract No. C13/01; and closing time and date being 3.00pm Friday 28th June 2013.

Enquiries to: Tenga Mana  
Project Engineer  
Email: [tenga@oyster.net.ck](mailto:tenga@oyster.net.ck)  
Phone: +682 20321

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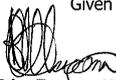


**PRICE ORDER 05/2013**

**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 05/2013 and shall come into effect on the 12th day of June 2013 for **TOA 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 my hand this 30th day of May 2013.

 Brian Terrance Hagan  
Chairman for the Price Tribunal

 Tatiana Burn  
Member for the Price Tribunal

**OFFICIAL SEAL of the PRICE TRIBUNAL COOK ISLANDS**

**SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER**

ITEM	WHOLESALE TO Retailers/Bulk Users	RETAIL PRICES TO CONSUMERS IN			Effective Date
		Rarotonga	Southern Group	Northern Group	
PETROL	2.45	2.73	3.01	3.07	June 12, 2013
DIESEL	2.23	2.51	2.79	2.85	June 12, 2013

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