

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

26 June 2013

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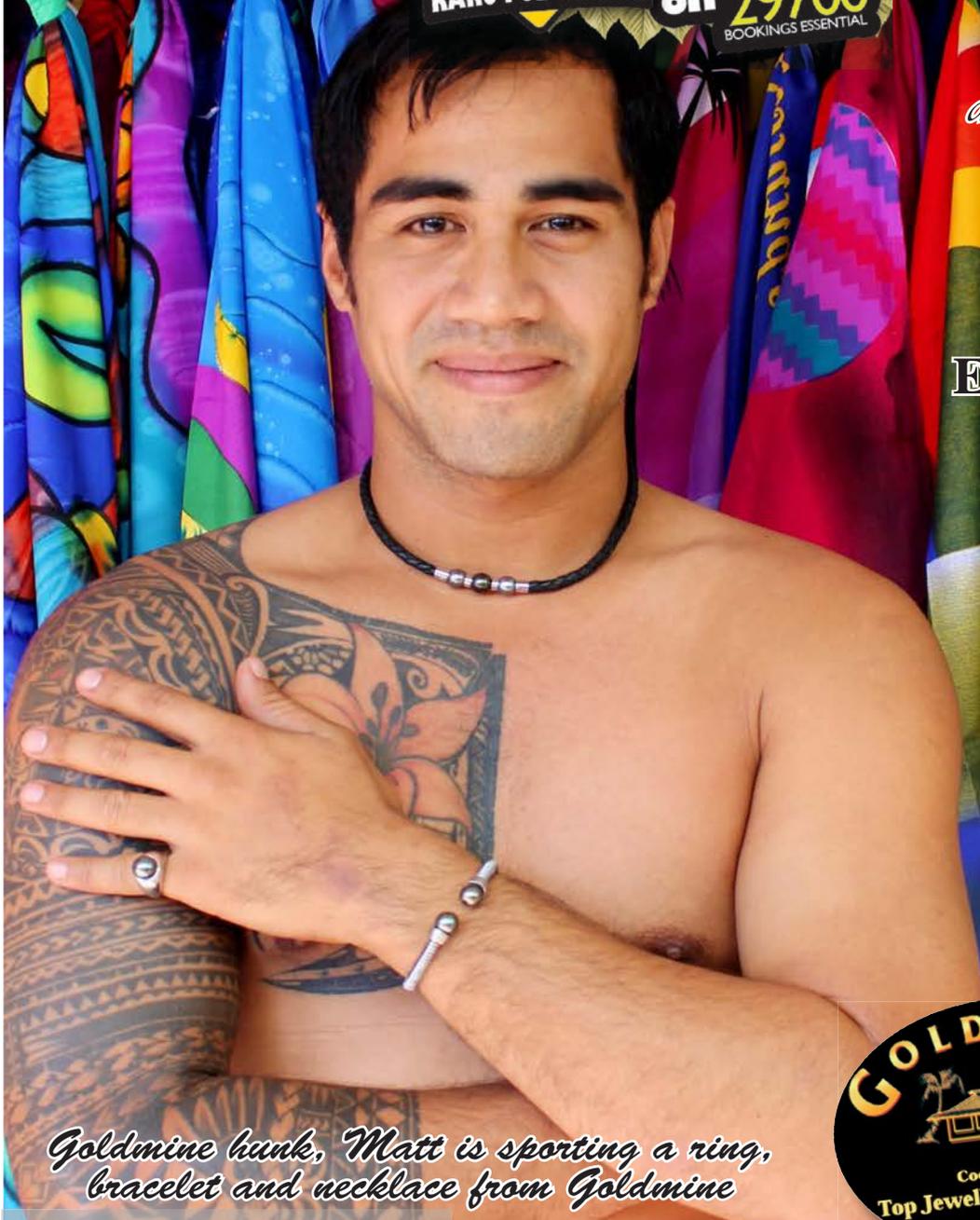
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PM registers Pacific voice in Paris



New Caledonia government member Lecren, French Special Envoy Hulot, PM, and Vanuatu Minister Pipite.

The Prime Minister Henry Puna has sparked a positive response as a result of his remarks at a media event in Paris, promoting the outcomes of the Oceania 21 Meeting hosted by New Caledonia, at the end of April 2013. The Prime Minister is in the French capital under the sponsorship of the Government of New Caledonia, which has sent a Pacific delegation to Paris to spread the word about environmental concerns and climate change, under the Oceania 21 concept.

Today's press conference was Puna's first day of business in Paris with a presentation held at the Maison de la Nouvelle Calédonie (New

Caledonia House), in the heart of Paris. The occasion was attended by a range of media representatives, French government officials, and Kanak Leaders. Prime Minister Puna was the headliner on a panel that included Anthony Lecren of the Government of New Caledonia – the member responsible for the Economy and Sustainable Development, and Vanuatu Minister of Trade and Tourism, Hon. Marcelino Pipite.

A key highlight was the positive response from the French President's Special Envoy for the Environment, Nicolas Hulot. Hulot picked up on the Prime Minister's key theme of the Pacific's struggles to have its voice

heard, especially on Climate Change. The Special Envoy pledged his help to the Region, saying that he would ensure that the Pacific voice would be heard at the highest levels. A local champion for the environment, who is accorded star status in France, Hulot's engagement with the Oceania 21 event was seen as a coup for the Pacific delegation.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister outlined his focus on Pacific solidarity, and how the Region's Small Islands

Developing States have demonstrated to the rest of the world its efforts to manage its oceans and resources responsibly, under principles of long term sustainability. The difficulty however, was having the Pacific voice noticed, especially by the developed world.

The Prime Minister has a full day of official business tomorrow (Thursday) with calls on the French Government, and discussions with New Caledonia President Harold Martin.



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

Foreign Enterprises-Annual Returns Due
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Back to the basics

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Many people have told me that there is really nothing that differentiates the Democratic Party from the governing Cook Islands Party. In other words they are virtually the same ideologically and philosophically. This is of concern to me when my analyses of the history of both parties show that they had some fundamental differences. I have had the odd occasion of criticising the Government and then saying that the matter of concern shows the difference between the two parties. But according to some, the distinction is not clear enough.

Papa Arapati Henry was a socialist, almost of the communistic brand but he tempered that down with a view that the Cook Islands people need economic activities that will create a bourgeoisie. I'm not sure whether he was committed to the notion of a rich elite but he was certainly committed to seeking ways to make better the income of Cook Islanders. Perhaps one could say his political beliefs were prompted by standing up against colonial institutions whether actual or conceptual. He saw that Cook Islanders can improve themselves by divesting from the colonial administration by being business owners themselves and/or being top public servants. It was the start of shaping a political and indeed a social identity for our country.

Papa Sir Tom Davis was very different in background and life experience from Papa Arapati. Tom was a scholar and Albert was a unionist. Tom went to work in the field of space science, was a medical doctor while Arapati rallied people and talked to them

about standing up against the colonial regime. But when it came to economics, Tom was a liberal with capitalist leanings while Arapati believed in the strength of the mass via a large public service that employed lots of people, albeit fellow kins. If compared to today, Tom would be comfortably placed with the New Zealand National Party and Arapati with the Labour Party of yesteryear led by Joseph Savage and Norman Kirk.

Let me ask this question, is this the situation today? I am inclined to believe that as the parties evolved under Sir Geoffrey Henry and successive Democratic Party leaders and Prime Ministers the line was crossed and then re-crossed. Both the CIP and the Democrats of today seem to be placed on the right conservative side of the political spectrum. I think this is where the difficulty is; identifying what are the core values of both parties. It certainly creates confusion.

Let me illustrate an example. The Prime Minister Henry Puna recently declared the Cook Islands will never make a law that recognizes same sex marriage. To me it appears to be a comment designed by to win endorsement from the right conservative religious and even fundamentalist sector of our society. It was a shallow pitch clamoring for popular support when he very well knows that the Constitution of this country does not allow discrimination of any sort. The fathers of the Cook Islands Constitution probably never foresaw such a union in marriage but it nevertheless laid the foundation for tolerance against race, colour, sex, gender and religion and cultural orientations. In that example the Prime Minister

was being very much the fundamentalist religious and anti-gay or anti-same unions' proponent. At least a debate about values needs to be held to get some consensus. That would be the democratic way of doing it.

I have realized now that I am tasked with having to stamp my mark on the political landscape of this country. In other words I need to say to the public these are the core values of the Democratic Party and they are fundamental threads thorough our policies. I make this promise that by the middle of next year there will clearly be values of the Democratic Party that will make it stand out distinctively and separate from our political nemesis.



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Mr Chou-Mr Fishing

By Charles Pitt

At 1.30pm on Tuesday at the Minister for Marine Resources, Hon Teina Bishop's office, I was privileged to sit in on discussions between the Minister and his special advisor on Fishing, the multi-billionaire Mr Sam Chou of Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd.

Mr Chou was accompanied by Mr Matthew Wang, Senior Manager-Production and Senior Fishery Engineer for China Southern Fishery (Shenzhen) Co., LTD a subsidiary company of Luen Thai which plans to establish a processing plant and warehouse at Rarotonga.

In the Cook Islands, Mr Chou, although he has many other business interests and operations, is better known for his connections to Tuna fishing, however, fishing is only one of his many business interests and not the largest of his operations.

Mr Chou told the Herald he was born, raised and educated in Guam, one of six children, five boys and a girl. It was in Guam, that he began his first business venture. Although his Head Office is at Shenzhen he resides in Hong Kong. Mr Chou is married to Lily Tan, a member of well known Tan family who through their charitable works, return up to ten percent of their business revenue to Pacific nations to assist education, health and other programmes.

The largest of his business interests is garments which he started in Saipan in 1980. He also has a Logistics Group which includes a cargo airline that handles all the US Mail between Hawaii and Guam and all places in between. The return air flights transport fresh tuna.

Included in this group is a joint venture shipping line that comprises 17 vessels that operate in the central western Pacific region.

Throw in a Forwarding company also.

Mr Chou operates a Hotel and Tourism Group. This group is the



Chinese Businessman Mr Sam Chou

largest group to bring in Chinese tourists to Saipan-some 100,000 visitors from China this year.

Mr Chou's Fishing Group was started in 1994 and comprises 73 vessels, some operating under the Chinese flag and others under other flags like FSM. This Group supplies fresh tuna to markets in Japan and the USA. The Group has its own airline to fly tuna to Palau. From Palau, the tuna is forwarded to the markets by commercial airlines.

Mr Chou said his company has the most bases in the Pacific and employs local people.

Make no mistake, Mr Chou is a highly intelligent and perceptive person with a great memory and recall.

He said it was about two and a half years ago that the Cook Islands government invited him and several others to Rarotonga to seek their advice on future development of the industry.

Mr Chou said following that meeting a report was prepared and submitted to the BTIB on his company's proposals for

future development which Mr Chou stressed was based on the company's experience in the Pacific.

What was proposed said Mr Chou, was for the company to base a fleet of 20 vessels in the Cooks, establish a processing plant and warehouse, provide training for local people and supply a variety of lower priced fish locals and the tourist industry.

At present the company has 14 vessels operating in the Cooks with a further three awaiting a license and three in China ready for deployment. All vessels were new.

Mr Chou said the company was keen to progress to the next phase (phase two) which was to be granted permission to off load its catch in Rarotonga.

Digressing briefly Mr Chou said it was the wish of the Chinese government that 15 per cent of the catch be sent to China due to the need to feed China's people. At present said Mr Chou, half the catch was going to the cannery

in Pago and half to overseas markets including China.

Mr Chou said there were several obstacles to establishing the company in the Cook Islands. According to Mr Chou, if our government could alleviate the constraints imposed by these obstacles, it would not only benefit the company but also the fishing industry as a whole and also local people especially. Local people said Mr Chou would benefit from increased opportunities for employment and also benefit as costs came down on fuel and fish. Government would increase its revenues from greater utilization of the recently upgraded port by other fishing companies. Mr Chou said there was no reason why Rarotonga could not become a major fishing hub like Fiji and Pago servicing the 100 strong fishing fleet operating to the north and south of the Cooks.

Fuel too expensive

Mr Chou said fuel was too expensive. He said the canneries

were paying \$3,500 per tonne of tuna last year but this year, were paying \$2,500 per tonne. With such a big drop and the high cost of fuel, Mr Chou said his company was just surviving. He has a fuel tanker boat ready to service his fleet. He said if the fuel tanker was allowed in, the company could supply locals and businesses with cheaper fuel.

Tax issues

Cook Islands Immigration were charging the crews departure tax. 10 boats had 150 crew. Departure tax was costing \$10,000 per month. This was on top of the VAT being paid for bait and \$2,500 per refrigerated container. He said a warehouse was needed to store the frozen tuna as refrigerated containers (40 foot long) was costing \$76 per day. This rate was set by the Port Authority said Mr Chou, not Te Aponga.

Local sales

Mr Chou said the BTIB would not allow any of the catch to be sold to local people. The catch offloaded was to be for the processing plant then for export. The company wanted to sell fish to locals. He said the Cook Islands Golden Brand tuna could be canned in China and returned for local Cook Islanders. He said in respect of canning, the company was not interested in profits, just helping the locals.

Utilizing Avatiu Port

Mr Chou said Avatiu Port following a costly upgrade, was under utilized. The potential was there to maximize the revenues and benefit the country by allowing Rarotonga to become

the next trans loading port after Fiji and Pago. He said there were some 100 boats operating in international waters, 50 to the north of the Cook Islands and 50 to the south. At present these vessels return to Fiji or Pago to offload catches. It would be more cost effective to them if they could offload in Rarotonga. This would increase activity at the port and also government revenues as well as present opportunities for local businesses to provide services to the fleet and crew. At Fiji and Pago fuel was cheaper, they had the necessary infrastructure, taxes were low, supply costs were cheaper and power was cheaper. Costs were lower said Mr Chou due to the volume of boats and it could be the same in the Cook Islands. He said if the Cook Islands made the environment more friendly for the fleets, economic benefits would follow. Mr Chou said the crews were another form of tourist. They spent money as crews need food and supplies.

Economic benefits

Mr Chou mentioned the Cook Islands had the highest license fees in the Pacific. The Minister responded that many companies were lined up to purchase licenses so the demand was there.

Mr Chou said with a bigger volume of vessels offloading by-catches at Rarotonga, the cost of fish to locals and also hotels would come down. There would also be a greater variety of fish available.

Mr Chou said the Cook islands could learn a lot from China. For

the last 20 years said Mr Chou, China has had an open door policy for investors to come to China. He said it was a policy the Cook Islands could consider.

Mr Chou's recommendations

Mr Chou said in his view, the Cook Islands should create a good environment so as to attract fishing vessels.

He said the government should reconsider VAT/departure tax.

If the volume of vessels increases, the Ports Authority could lower its charges especially for refrigerated containers. Also the Ports Authority would need to be able to handle the increased work at Avatiu port.

If offloading is allowed, the environment would be acceptable to the fleets. However, someone said Mr Chou, needs to take the lead.

Bait should be available at the port as this is always needed. At present bait is obtained from Asian countries.

Mr Chou believes the Chinese government is willing to help Pacific nations. His company has connections in China and may be able to facilitate contacts.

Processing plant and warehouse proposals

Mr Chou said the company is currently seeking a suitable site for establishing their processing plant and warehouse. The processing plant is essentially a band saw factory and the warehouse will store frozen fish at minus 25 degrees and also super frozen fish. There will be no smell. As is the case overseas, the plant can become a tourist attraction

with a restaurant attached.

Marine Stewardship Certificate-MSC

Mr Chou said an MSC would open up markets in the USA and European Union (EU) for the export of Cook Islands Albacore. At present only Fiji has been approved for export of Albacore. The Cook Islands will be the second said Mr Chou. Already, pre-approval was being obtained.

Mr Chou said the Cook Islands needs to have an agreement with the EU. He said his company's 20 vessels are EU certified but not qualified to offload their catch for export to the EU as the Cook Islands is not MSC approved.

A final comment

Mr Chou said the Cook Islands at present, has just tourism and fishing to sustain its economy. He said he has a dream for the Cook Islands. If the Cook Islands government supports his company's proposals, his company can help the Cook Islands people.

The next major steps said Mr Chou are firstly , to be able to sell the company's by-catch locally and export to China by way of refrigerated containers and secondly, to establish the processing plant and warehouse which will employ local people.

Aitutaki/Mitiaro visits

On Tuesday afternoon, Minister Bishop, Mr Chou and a team of seven professors from Shanghai Ocean University traveled to Aitutaki and Mitiaro to discuss with locals possibilities of establishing marine enterprises such as in aqua-culture.

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Our Cover Guy

Cook Islands government and Maori Iwi discuss opportunities for fisheries

24th June – Cook Islands delegates have returned from Napier where they were hosted by the NgātiKahungunulwi to investigate opportunities to strengthen ties with the Maori.

The Cook Islands delegation included Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister, Hon. Teina Bishop, Minister of Marine Resources, Hon. Tai Tura, MP for Mauke Island, Mr Ben Ponia, Secretary of Marine Resources and Mr Navy Epati, Advisor.

Pōwhiriwere held at the WaipatuMarae, Hastings and RongomaraeroaMarae, Porangahau.

Workshop presenters from the Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC), Pacific Cooperation Foundation, Ministry of Primary Industries and Hawkes Bay Seafood, explained how Maori rights were being translated into commercial development leading to economic and social benefits.

The Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC) was set up by the Iwi to manage its Treaty Fishery Settlements and future investments.

Delegates also witnessed the hand-over of 3,680 ha Tautane Station to the iwi which had been owned by the Herrick family for 111 years. The purchase of Tautane by KAHC is the iwi's first step in buying back tribal land.

A key topic was the New Zealand fisheries quota system.

There was considerable discussion on how the Maori rights, enshrined under the Waitangi Treaty, were being accorded under settlement and the quota system.

The Cook Islands explained how catch history and science was being used by the country to assert its regional rights to determine zone based catches and allocate quota. But it was emphasised that government would not give up its perpetual rights to the fishery and would continue to have control over who holds the fishing quota.

Mauke was highlighted by the Cook Islands as an island with immense agriculture potential, and developing the land would help stem depopulation and food imports.

The handover of Tautane station also highlighted how equity from fisheries could be used to develop land and opportunities for future generations.

Both parties agreed that there was a need to return the people to the land and the sea and to continue investigating opportunities for Cook Islands and New Zealand Maori partnerships.

Many references were made to Paikea the famous whale rider from the iwi whose ancestors came from Mauke.



Our cover guy for issue 672 is Matthew Pierre, who works at the Dive Shop. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Hager on havens

By Charles Pitt

The well known investigative journalist Nicky Hager is in Rarotonga basically for a holiday but on Wednesday evening he is taking the opportunity to speak publically at the USP in Takamoa on 10 reasons why he thinks the Cook Islands should stop being a tax haven.

The Herald spoke to Nicky on Tuesday about his involvement in the world wide investigation into tax havens being undertaken by an international consortium of investigative journalists and why he is focusing on the Cook Islands in particular.

From the start, Nicky made it clear he was not a trained journalist and was more comfortable with Physics. Nicky said he was asked by the International Consortium about 2 years ago to help as one company, TrustNet was based in the Cook Islands and he was based in the Pacific area. Nicky who is from Levin, a little over an hour's drive north of Wellington had worked on investigative stories involving mercenaries and fisheries. More recently he wrote the intriguing book "The Hollow Men" based on the lead up to a general election in NZ and the National Party's pre-election tactics to get Donald Brash elected.

Two companies said Nicky had all their files leaked. He had around a million and a half documents to look over. These covered the period from 2004 to 2010 when files and emails were on computer. Prior to this period, communication was by fax and those records were hard to come by.

Nicky acknowledges that recent legislative amendments in the Cooks have now made it a bit harder for tax cheats to use the Cook islands however



Nicky Hager with George Pitt

he queries government's capacity to carry out proper checks. He is of the view that there are still a lot of dodgy clients using the Cook Islands to store their money however it is hard says Nicky to gauge how much money is coming into the Cooks as the country is only part of a vast international network.

Nicky does not believe the industry is a huge money spinner for government and fees and competition is rife among Pacific countries. He believes the cost of maintaining vigilance, that is, monitoring and enforcement may eventually outweigh the revenue coming into government through fees and taxes.

Nicky says tax havens are under attack internationally and that the sector which has been around in the Cooks for some 30 years should be closed down. He says this may actually be beneficial to the country.

This is Nicky's first visit to the Cook Islands and he returns to New Zealand on Monday.



The annual Go Local Night Market is back on!

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Where: Punanga Nui Market

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Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

OCEANIA 21 Consultation

Wednesday 26 June 2013, Paris, France

Speech by Prime Minister Hon Henry Puna

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the efforts of the Government of New Caledonia, in promoting this initiative in the Pacific and for providing this opportunity to speak about the concept of Oceania 21 and its objectives. I'm pleased to be a part of it and to join this delegation with New Caledonia, and also Vanuatu.

The Cook Islands and New Caledonia have a close working relationship based on shared interests and common goals. We don't see ourselves as just Polynesia and Melanesia. We are interested in embracing all our Pacific colleagues to make the region stronger – Large Ocean Island States – a new mindset that was launched at the 2012 Pacific Islands Leaders' Forum to drive our initiatives into the future.

We also have a close partnership with New Caledonia to cooperate on renewable energy development and to strengthen energy security in the Pacific.

The Oceania 21 Meetings and its process is an important platform for the Pacific Region because it brings us together for a common purpose – and that is to raise our voice of concern over the need for environmental action in our part of the world.

The strengthening of our unified approach to environmental concerns, particularly the preservation of our ocean and the sustainability of its resources, is paramount, especially since the sea is a significant part of our livelihood. Our tuna

fisheries and the potential of seabed mining are our greatest opportunities for long term sustainability.

However, our survival is being impacted upon by the adversity of Climate Change – our biggest challenge for a sustainable future.

While we have made a lot of progress to establish clear regimes for responsible management of our resources, the Climate Change agenda is undermining our efforts to develop and advance our economic growth.

The call for action on Climate Change and accessing the finances for adaptation is critical. While we have a solid voice on the international stage (the Alliance of Small Islands States), the pleas from the Pacific are not being heard. The Small Islands Developing States are in the forefront of the impacts but our cry for help is often ignored.

There is some progress, however. The United Nations leadership has been supportive, and just recently, US President Obama has championed the call for action. Climate Change is affecting everyone right now – but being felt more so by the low lying Pacific states, like Kiribati, Tuvalu, and also Tokelau.

In the Cook Islands recently, we hosted the first global consultation on the displacement of people across borders because of natural disasters, including Climate Change (the Nansen Initiative). Human mobility in the Pacific is a very real concern that will become more significant over time.

Despite most of the world dragging their feet, the

Pacific is where the Small Islands States have been demonstrating leadership.

Political will has been driving our own initiatives, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and tougher conservation measures.

Small islands like Tokelau have transformed their energy use to become 100% driven by renewable energy – solar power – in November last year. The Cook Islands has renewable energy targets – 50% by 2015 + 100% by 2020.

Responsible Management Regimes:

The Cook Islands has a long history of declared responsibility to oceans and resource management – demonstrated by becoming a signatory to treaties and frameworks like:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- the Rio Earth Summit and its processes
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity; and key initiatives such as:
- the prevention of hazard waste dumping and control over the transshipment of spent nuclear materials across the Pacific.

The Cook Islands has also pursued Continental Shelf claims to the UN as part of its broader efforts to explore the potential of seabed mining.

These steps are consistent with the precautionary approach of Rio Principle 15 where we are balancing our efforts by establishing regimes with built-in conservation and sustainable management

measures. We want to position ourselves to exploit resources responsibly, on a sustainable basis, so that future generations will continue to benefit.

Whale Sanctuary 2002 – Shark Sanctuary 2013.

Marine Park Reserve 2012 – 1 million sq km based on a partnership between NGOs and Government.

We have demonstrated strong regional cooperation in oceans management with the historic signing of 8 Maritime Boundary Agreements (between 7 countries) in Rarotonga, simultaneously. This has never been achieved anywhere in the world.

Locally, we have a harmonised conservation (Raui) programme with solid cooperation between Traditional Leaders, NGOs, and the Government.

Cook Islands has a new and strong national priority (under the NSDP) for Energy Security – now matched by all Pacific Leaders this year during two Summits (Tonga and Auckland). National roadmap has been adopted, new Energy Commission established, feasibility studies and assessments completed on waste-to-energy potential, grid connectivity and stability, and application of mini-grid systems in the Outer Islands for small communities.

The Renewable Energy development approach has twin-drivers: cut greenhouse gas emissions irrespective of our size and output; and boost the economy by breaking the dependence on fossil fuel for electricity. The goal is to become a fully clean and green destination for international travellers.

Momentous occasion as first four O3B satellites are successfully launched

O3b's first four satellites roared skyward aboard the Arianespace Soyuz launch vehicle.

Cook Islands Telecom CEO Jules Maher was there to witness the event.

TUESDAY JUNE 25, FRENCH GUIANA: In the early evening of 25th June 2013, O3b's first four satellites roared skyward aboard the Arianespace Soyuz launch vehicle. A few short hours later, first contact was made with O3b's gateway in Hawaii, confirming the birth of the satellite industry's newest and most innovative operator.

O3b is deploying a revolutionary new network

that combines the reach of satellite with the speed of fiber, bringing high speed, low cost connectivity to billions of people across emerging markets who have never had access to this level of connectivity before. Customers witnessing the launch included Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, O3b's first Maritime customer, Telecom Cook Islands, who will receive the first commercial signals across the network this summer and Maju Nusa, soon to roll out a state of the art 3G backhaul network in Malaysia built on O3b's low latency capacity.

John W Dick, O3b Chairman, said

"Today, a life-changing journey has begun for many of the remaining unconnected and underserved regions of the world. In only a few years, we have designed and launched a revolutionary system; one that will transform the way communications are handled in many of the world's underserved markets. Working with our customers, O3b will open up a new and exciting world to billions of people who, up to now, have not experienced the benefits of fast Internet connectivity and who, as a result, are not on a level playing field."

A second group of four O3b satellites will be launched in September, completing

the first phase in O3b's constellation and ahead of the launch of the company's service later in the year. The O3b system is scalable, designed to allow additional satellites to be launched and slotted into the system, increasing capacity elegantly and simply as demand inexorably grows.

Steve Collar, O3b CEO, said: "So much has happened already in O3b's short life but this launch is the start of something extraordinary. Tonight we celebrate and then return our unerring focus to deliver the promise that we have made to our fabulous, pioneering customers around the world."

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
This response has been prepared to correct a number of misrepresentations made in the Herald dated 29 May 2013 about the "Upgrade and refurbishment of aluminum work boats" (the project) which is funded by a grant from the Government of India.

Several statements were made in an article which inferred improper actions on the part of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management and the Cook Islands Government. This letter is a regrettable but necessary rebuttal of the published article, which appears to be completely designed to damage personal reputation.

The Development of Coordination Division (MFEM) has been overseeing the project as part of its day to day role directly managing the India grant fund. This role extends from a core mandate of oversight of all activity funded by official

development assistance. A review of the project history finds that:

1. MFEM was involved in the initial development of the proposal and assisted the Manihiki Island Council organize scoping works;

2. MFEM received the final project application from the Manihiki Island Council in April 2012 which included a single quote for services explained by the "nature of the task and the isolation" preventing other contractors to scope the work;

3. The project concept was assessed by MFEM and approved by CI Government in May 2012;

4. The project concept was approved by the Indian Government in February 2013;

5. In April 2013, MFEM advised the Manihiki Island Council that as the contract value was above \$30,000, a tender process would be

required and that a waiver from this procedure could only be requested if only one supplier existed;

6. In May 2013, MFEM became aware that there are at least two competent aluminum boat builders in the Cook Islands and advised the Manihiki Island Council to tender out the project allowing the opportunity for anyone in the market to put in a proposal.

7. Manihiki Island Council is currently reviewing the process with MFEM support to ensure a fair and transparent process.

The evaluation panel is proposed to be made up of a representative of the Manihiki Island Administration, Ministry of Marine Resources and Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association with MFEM (Development Coordination Division) providing secretariat assistance.

The tender committee chaired by the Secretary of Finance will make a final decision on the validity of the contract award.

The Ministry regrets any inconvenience caused by the lengthy development time of this project and trusts that a fair and transparent process will result in value for money benefits for the people of Manihiki.

Sincerely,
Peter Tierney
Acting Manager
Development Coordination
Division
Ministry of Finance and
Economic Management

Editor's note: For balance, the Herald will be contacting the Indian Embassy in Wellington NZ for comment on the handling of this matter and of the Indian government's understanding of the process to be followed in the management of its grant.



Expanding solar and wind production

Renewable energy island of Tutuila's dependence on diesel.

has been in the plan of every country, island or territory that does not have oil, coal, or gas resources for what feels like a very long time.

Our motivation for renewable energy is the result one may say of finding ourselves at the end of a long pipeline we don't control. No-one likes being subject to the whims of oil producers and paying prices that rise all the time.

When you're in that situation, the sun and wind become really attractive alternatives since they're always there and, absolutely, free. To be sure, running our appliances, lights and households on renewable energy sources would not be just a Cook Islands dream but a Pacific dream and a global dream as well.

Here's what one of our neighbours, American Samoa, announced this week. They would expand the use of solar and wind energy on the Manu'a Islands and have the group taken off diesel energy by 2016. In addition, they would begin drilling for geothermal energy next year as part of a project to reduce the main

island of Tutuila's dependence on diesel.

And in the United States, President Barack Obama is presently unlocking energy efficiency innovation and accelerating solar and wind and other renewable energy production on public lands.

This is a very big deal. When Americans pour a lot of money into an industry you can expect to see a lot of technology improvements coming out of it and for costs overall to come down.

Here is what TAU is doing.

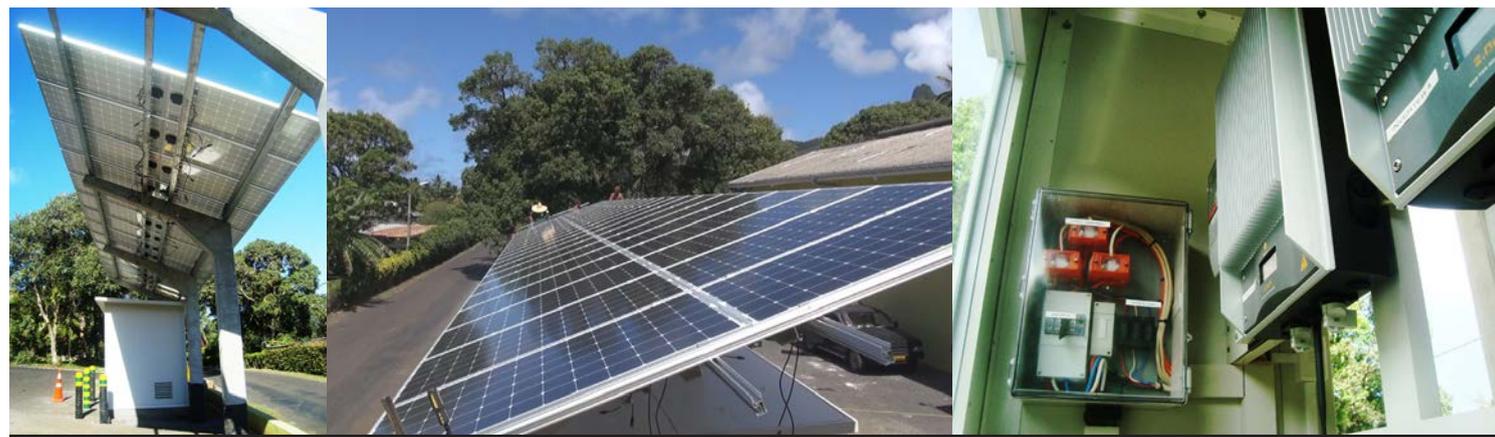
- Expanding grid-tied solar arrays onto building rooftops
- Reviewing policies, conditions and standards to support RE installations, grid tie or not
- Exploring and evaluating the viability of other sources of RE in particular sustainable storage

Clearly, the energy landscape in the Cook Islands has changed, especially in light of Government's renewable energy targets of 50% by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

But it's refreshing to know that others in the Pacific and around the globe are displaying leadership to turn the idea of a renewable energy future into a reality.



Te Aponga Uira Solar PV Panels in Tutakimoa.





Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Water Update

Project City now connecting to Private Property

Contractors are now on the final stages of the Project City upgrade of the town water pipeline network from Panama (sector 1), Avarua central business district (sector 2), Tupapa (sector 3) and Takuvaine Valley (sector 4).

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning engineers advise that ongoing pressure testing is being conducted to ensure there are no leakages. Contractors are also carrying out the finishing touches including connecting individual water meters to every house or business in the project area.

The engineers further advise that while the obligation to lay pipelines ends at the roadside, and in theory the landowner is then responsible for connections to their home. However, the contractors have discovered that some old service lines were in such a bad state, that the new system cannot be connected as is.

Therefore it has been agreed between the Ministry and the contractors, that the contractors will go ahead and replace the leaky old service connections at no cost to the affected households or businesses to ensure the integrity of the new system once it is operational.

The engineers wish to allay the fears expressed by a few property owners who have objected to contractors entering their property to upgrade their connections and assure them that it is in their own best interests to upgrade at no cost during the project.

Instead the project will cover the costs in order to ensure



Installing water meter in Parekura

the new system does not fail at the last hurdle for the sake of a few extra metres of piping. Instances are the work carried out to Staircase Restaurant and the Beachcomber complex in Taputapuatea opposite the Makea Nui palace.

When the engineers are satisfied that all is in order, the new system will be 'livened up' section by section and even house to house, if necessary, to ensure the integrity of the new system. However, the project still has another month to go before we get to that stage.

Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning apologise for any inconvenience caused during the monumental task of replacing the entire town water pipeline network.



Digger in Parekura



Asian
Development Bank



Ministry of
Infrastructure and
Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

Uipaanga Mataiti 2013 a te Koutu Nui

The theme of this year's annual general meeting of the Koutu Nui was to 'Akamatutu te turanga arataki o te Aronga Mana o te Kuki Airani' which is about retaining the leadership role of the Aronga Mana in today's society.

This was taken as a very broad theme with presentations on Bad Debts, the Tax Review, the Cook Islands Marine Park, Climate Change, UNESCO World Heritage Listings, Climate Change, deep sea mining and issues relating to youth and how to tackle the issues of HIV-Aids.

Speakers included Petero Okotai on bad debts, loss of land from mortgagee sales and people who overextend themselves and later find their loans are unaffordable. Okotai's talk led to very lively discussions during the iri'iri kapua. Suggestions from the leaders were to 'live within our means' by Ben Nicholls from Aitutaki. Others said to borrow what one can really afford; or approach your own Kopu Tangata to assist, or give them the first offer instead of on the open market which raises the asking price out of reach of the relatives.

Another presentation that produced a lively debate was the Tax Review with Minister Mark Brown and Financial Secretary, Richard Neves on tax rates, tax burden, VAT, customs levies, company tax etc that MFEM use to generate revenue to balance the budget books of Government.

The Koutu Nui asked about the status of the Koutu Nui submission (and other submissions) to the International Monetary Fund reps and MFEM where they had recommended lifting the tax-free thresholds from \$10,000 to \$15,000pa for earners in the Cook Islands.

At the AGM, an alternative option could be to lower the tax rates to 10% (\$10,001-\$20,000) and 20% (\$20,001-30,000) down from the 25% tax rate. The leaders also suggested that high income earners could pay a little higher rate than 30%. Minister and the Financial Secretary conceded that overseas, tax rates could be up to 45% or more of salary. Not that the leaders were suggesting rates of that kind, simply noting that other alternatives ought to be considered.

The AGM was held at Pukapuka hostel from 18-20 June 2013 and the election of office bearers on the final day produced this result: Turi Mataiapo, Mrs Maria Henderson remains President; Paenui Rangatira, Mrs Vereara Taripo remains Secretary and Tere'a Mataiapo, Paul Allsworth is Mou Moni. The new patron is Apai Mataiapo of Arai Te Tonga in recognition of his long service to the Koutu Nui.

They are assisted by Api Rangatira (Mrs Tapu Enjoy) and Tiikura Mataiapo (Mrs Tai Adamson). Vice presidents are to be advised by the respective Vaka of Takitumu, Puaikura and Te Au o Tonga. New positions are Media advisor to the Koutu Nui, Itaata Rangatira, Noeline Kainuku Browne and World Heritage advisor to the Koutu Nui, Araitai Mataiapo, Elizabeth Ponga.



Turi Mataiapo (president) & Apai Mataiapo (new Patron)



Petero Okotai, presenter on 'Bad Debts'



Puaikura members of Koutu Nui

Semester 5 down, 1 to go!

By Sally Hosking

It feels as though it was just yesterday that I was dreading what this semester had in store for us. Time sure does fly! On the 17th of this month, we submitted our final assignment. Considering that others were still preparing for exams, we felt fortunate to finish so soon. Though we're free, we cannot fully look forward to next Semester until results come through – which I must admit is nerve-wracking! Nevertheless, it has been an exciting semester. I have really enjoyed my papers; so much so that it saddens me that I will only have one more Semester to make the most of this experience. It has been difficult. No doubt. But exciting! And Media 373 is partly the reason.

It was one of the four papers that were compulsory this semester. It required us to use digital software to fabricate a piece of furniture. Fortunately, we were given the option to work as a group, and I had the privilege of working with my fellow islanders - Alfred Wigmore and Tania West.

If there is one thing we've noticed after studying architecture for the past two years, it's the fact that studios are often filled with sleep deprived students. We wanted to provide a solution by designing a portable sleeping space that students could use if they needed sleep during the day. It needed to be collapsible (so that it could fit inside a locker) and adaptable to any human size and unoccupied space within studio. It also needed to be composed of affordable, lightweight, and environmentally friendly materials.

That was our initial objective. After being exposed to digital softwares, however, this all changed. After exploring images of different positions of sleep, we used Grasshopper and Rhino to modify the forms. Thankfully, Alfred's experience with each software made our approach to the project less stressful as we had originally imagined. The end result was a lounger – a piece of furniture



which we needed to make a full-scale physical model of.

We began exploring how the piece could become structurally feasible by making small scaled models. In our digital plan, the furniture was composed of pieces of curved shapes that slot into each other creating a 'waffle system.' Getting these shapes involved the use of technology such as the laser-cutter and the CNC. As soon as these models proved that the structure could be built, we attempted to make a full-scale model with card. The fact that card was flexible, cheap, and environmentally friendly, made us consider other ways in which our lounger could be used. After much discussion we decided that it could also become a means of creating a vibrant, playful environment for children in which their creativity was stimulated, and social interaction was encouraged through



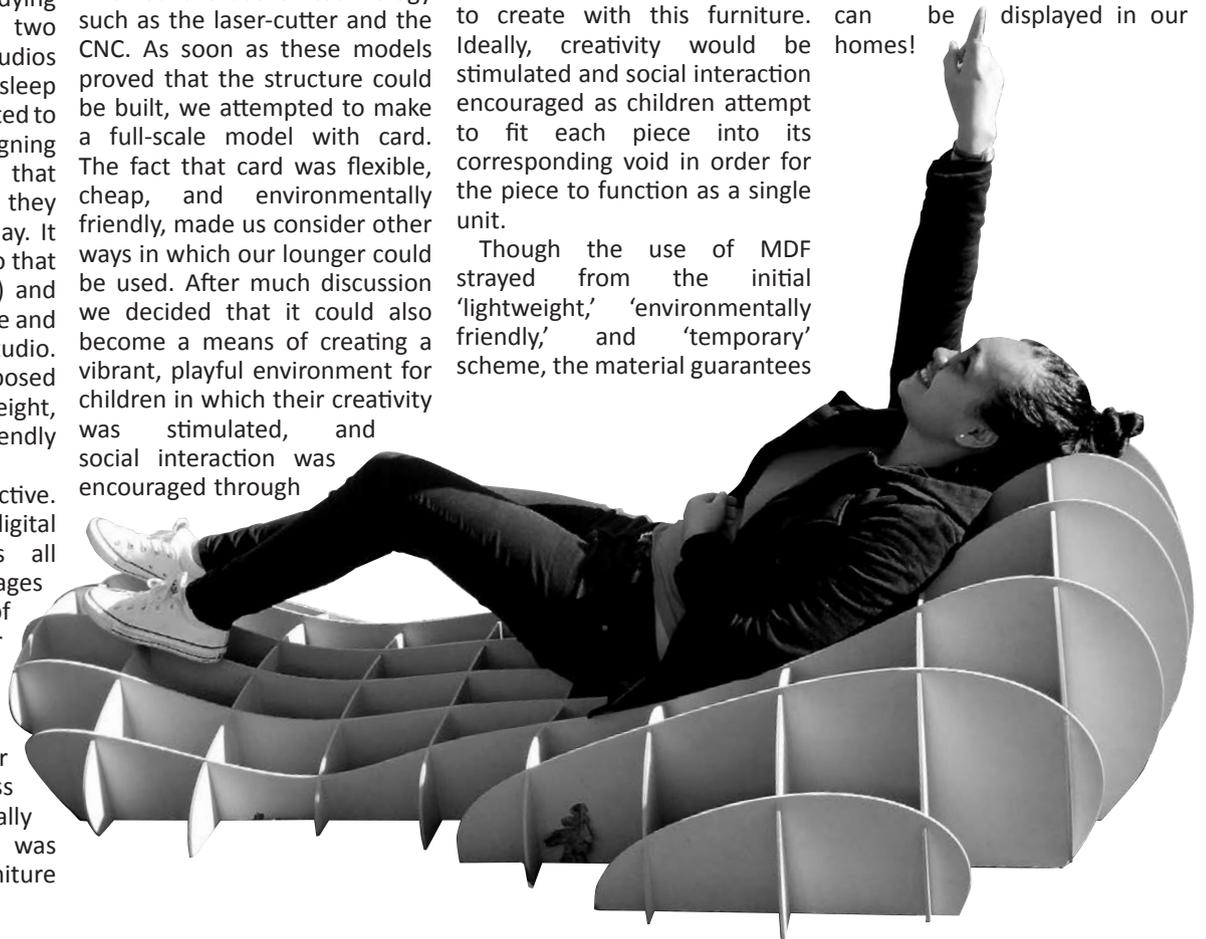
the assembly of a '3D puzzle.'

We wanted to construct the piece from 7mm corrugated card, but due to limitations in the material properties, time, and financial constraints, we opted for the use of MDF. The rigidity of this material prompted the need for cushioning. To achieve a vibrant and playful environment that stimulated creativity and encouraged social interaction amongst children, we decided on the use of polystyrene blocks. Each piece would fit into a specific void by conforming to its dimension and shape. Blocks would be dyed with vibrant colours to reflect the nature of the atmosphere we intended to create with this furniture. Ideally, creativity would be stimulated and social interaction encouraged as children attempt to fit each piece into its corresponding void in order for the piece to function as a single unit.

Though the use of MDF strayed from the initial 'lightweight,' 'environmentally friendly,' and 'temporary' scheme, the material guarantees

added stability and durability, consequently introducing the potential for a double function. Through what was considered a 'happy accident,' it was decided that in the event that it was not used as a lounger, the structure could convert to a shelf. This trendy and innovative design would provide a number of compartments suitable for the display or storage of small objects.

Media 373 has undoubtedly made our group more comfortable with dealing with digital software. Though it was expensive, we got the satisfaction in knowing that we made something that can be displayed in our homes!



Outlook stable but concerns remain

Ratings On The Cook Islands Affirmed At 'B+/B' On Sound Tourism Sector And Donor Support; Outlook Stable

MELBOURNE (Standard & Poor's) May 31, 2013--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said today that it had affirmed its 'B+/B' issuer credit ratings on the Cook Islands. The outlook is stable. The Transfer & Convertibility assessment remains 'AAA'.

"The ratings on the Cook Islands reflect the vulnerabilities associated with the country's weak policymaking culture and institutional settings. Despite recent improvements, these have the potential to further reverse past gains in fiscal consolidation," Standard & Poor's credit analyst Craig Michaels said. "In addition, the narrowly-based Cook Islands economy suffers from heavy emigration, vulnerabilities relating to cyclone-related disasters, and changing tourism preferences."

Further moderating the ratings are the country's lack of monetary policy flexibility and data deficiencies that constrain our analysis of the Cook Islands' external position. Partly offsetting these factors are the government's supportive relationship with the highly rated New Zealand sovereign and international donors, a moderate average income level, and a modest level of government indebtedness.

Mr. Michaels added: "The stable outlook balances the Cook Islands' improving economic growth prospects and supportive relationship with New Zealand and donor agencies, against the challenges it faces in overcoming weak political

and institutional settings and infrastructure shortcomings to raise the prospects of the population."

We would lower the ratings if a weakening in global economic conditions reduces tourism sector receipts and, in turn, worsens the government's finances. A weakened commitment to uphold past fiscal gains through undisciplined spending and further sharp rises in its debt burden could also bring pressure on the ratings.

Improvements in the sovereign creditworthiness could come with sustained gains in policymaking stability and effectiveness, evidenced by the closing of sizable data deficiencies, further strength in the government's fiscal performance, and progress in increasing economic opportunities for residents to stem the population decline.

RELATED CRITERIA AND RESEARCH

- Global Economic Outlook: An Expansion With Complex Cross-Currents, May 15, 2013

- Softer Traction In Some Asia-Pacific Economies But Growth Expected To Hold Steady, May 15, 2013

- Methodology For Linking Short-Term And Long-Term Ratings For Corporate, Insurance, And Sovereign Issuers, May 7, 2013

- Sovereign Government Ratings Methodology Addendum For Sovereigns With Limited External Data, Nov. 7, 2011

- Government Rating Methodology And Assumptions, June 30, 2011

- Criteria For Determining Transfer And Convertibility Assessments, May 18, 2009

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Best ever Android Apps

WebMD for Android

WebMD is much more than a diagnosis app, although you certainly can use it to input symptoms you are experiencing and find some clues as to what's ailing you. It also contains listings for healthcare professionals and pharmacies in your area, as well as first-aid guides—simple instructions for dealing with an emergency that everyone should have accessible at any time. This free reference app is one you hope you don't need, but, the moment you do, you'll be glad you downloaded it.

Urban Dictionary

Want to improve your street cred? UrbanDictionary.com is a popular user generated source of modern slang. This unofficial app includes everything you'll find on its Website, plus a word of the day, so you can impress your bourgeois friends with unfamiliar phrases like "pulling a Kim Kardashian" or "Rick Perry Strong" or "Blackberry roulette."

Wikipedia for Android

Our favorite cheat sheet launched an official Android app in January, allowing you to fluidly search, clip, and share entries through your device. There are loads of third-party clients, but this is the cleanest, most authentic Wikipedia experience available in the Android Market .



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Stakeholders in fisheries and aquaculture identify priority adaptations to climate change

The Ministry of Marine Resources and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) are holding a two-day workshop in Rarotonga with the support of AusAID to help stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector identify priority adaptations to climate change.

The workshop is being attended by staff from the Ministry of Marine Resources, other government departments, non government organizations and the private sector. Participants are learning about the effects of global warming and ocean acidification on the ecosystems and stocks supporting fisheries and aquaculture, and the consequences for economic development, food security and livelihoods.

'We would like all stakeholders to identify adaptations that minimize the risks posed by climate change, and maximize the opportunities', said Ben Ponia, Secretary for the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR).

Participants will hear how some fisheries and aquaculture resources are expected to be losers as the climate changes, and that others will be winners.

'The ability of pearl oysters to produce high quality pearls could potentially be affected by the changing climate', said Dr Johann Bell from SPC. 'In particular, ocean acidification may affect how pearl oysters lay down nacre'.



Group attending workshop. Dr Bell back right.

Continued degradation of coral reefs due to increases in coral bleaching and ocean acidification are expected to lower the productivity of coastal fisheries by 20 per cent by 2050.

'This will reduce the amount of coastal fish available for food security', said Ben Ponia. 'We will have to strengthen the plans already underway to transfer fishing activities from reefs to tuna by promoting the use of

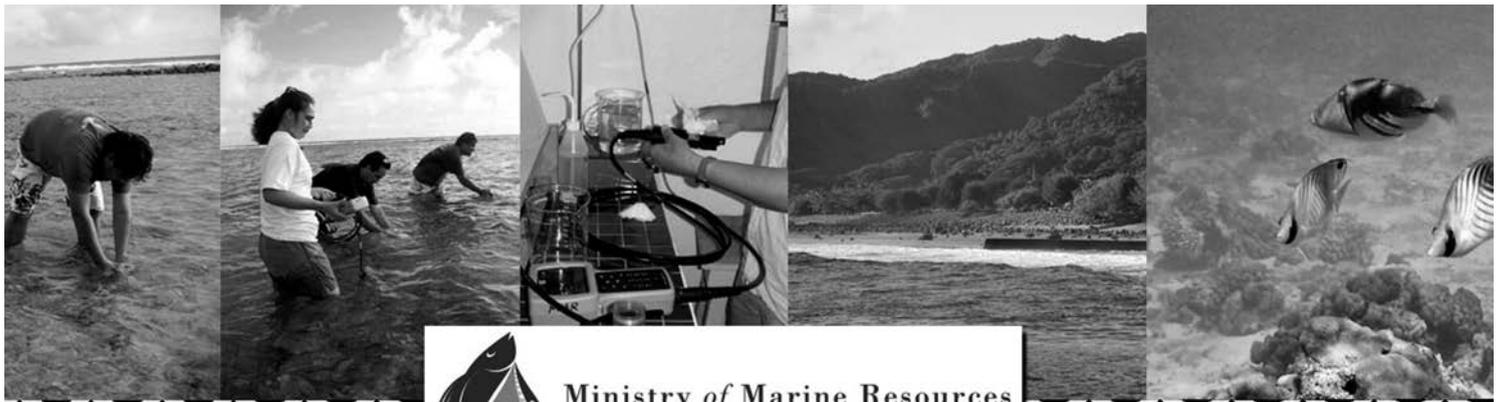
near shore fish aggregating devices (FADs), he said.

Dr Bell says that FADs are a win-win adaptation. 'FADs are helping to supply more fish where ciguatera fish poisoning occurs, and investments in FADs are likely to be favoured by climate change', he said. 'Tuna are expected to occur more frequently in the waters of Cook Islands as sea surface temperatures rise'.

'Investments in aquaponics to

boost local supplies of fish are also likely to be favoured by the projected changes in rainfall', said Dr Bell.

The outputs of the workshop will be used by MMR to help guide the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. They will also be submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister for inclusion in the joint national action plan for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Parvo Vaccine Programme Scheduled for Raro

South Pacific Animal Welfare, in association with the CISPCA is pleased to announce an island-wide parvo vaccine programme for Rarotonga. The week long vaccination clinic will take place from Monday 12th to Friday 16th August 2013 with proceeds going to help finish the new SPCA shelter. South Pacific Animal Welfare and Zoetis NZ are resourcing the trip and will bring 500 vaccines with a volunteer vet and vet nurse team to the island to deliver the programme. "The vaccine programme is free with the main goal being to vaccinate as many animals as possible and ultimately save lives. We want to vaccinate multiple dogs in all the villages around Rarotonga. The donated vaccines will be used in both puppies 10 weeks of age and older and in adult dogs

to protect them against canine parvo virus- a leading cause of death in dogs in south pacific island communities" says Karen Galvan from SPAW.

SPAW is a NZ based charity that works on pacific islands mentoring and developing the expertise of local people in the areas of veterinary care, spay/neuter and basic animal husbandry. The charity has grown rapidly in 3 years and includes the Kingdom of Tonga, Niue and Samoa in its animal aid portfolio.

"We are able to provide this level of care and support due to our strategic networks in NZ and around the world. Being a New Zealand charity opens up opportunities for us and allows access to industry resources which we in turn can share with our neighbouring pacific island communities. It's a nice thing to

do and our organisation is now helping local agencies save and improve many animals lives all over the pacific" says Ms Galvan.

Dr. Andy David from Zoetis in NZ explains that canine parvo virus can be seen as an outbreak affecting large numbers of dogs. Infected dogs develop severe vomiting and diarrhoea and without intensive treatment are unlikely to survive. Unvaccinated dogs are at particular risk- modern vaccines such as Protech® C4 are highly effective in preventing the disease by enabling the development of protective immunity in those dogs receiving the vaccine. Zoetis is proud to be part of this initiative and to support SPAW's worthy work in New Zealand's neighbouring communities, he said.

Sharon Reichardt President of the CISPCA encourages all dog

owners to vaccinate stating "it's not every day an opportunity like this is presented to us so please get prepared to bring your dogs in - SPAW are also bringing flea and worm treatments for all animals vaccinated". The clinics will likely be situated at village locations around the island and further details will be posted closer to the date. Its important however that a programme of this scale gets out to the people early so we have enough time to take full advantage of it.

The CISPCA will be looking for suitable venues around the island to carry out the vaccination programme only, and not for de-sexing yet.

Initial enquiries can me made to SPAW at enquiries@spaw.org.nz or direct to Sharon 25099 or Kura 27577.

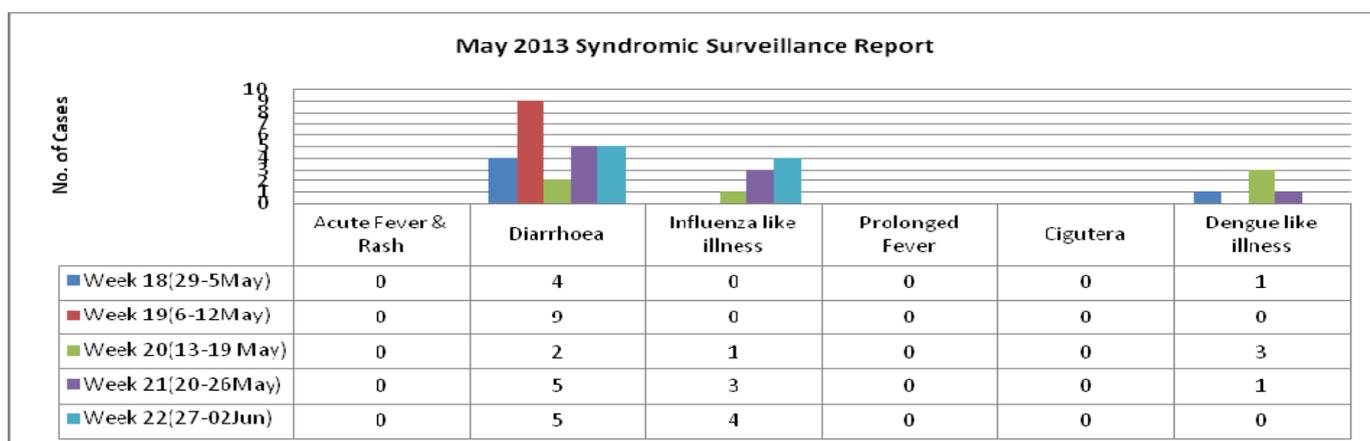
-CISPCA release 18 June 2013



Community Health Services- Public Health Department
PO Box 109 Tel: 682 29 110
Rarotonga Fax: 682 29 100
Cook Islands Website: www.health.gov.cook

The ESR Unit, Community Health Services, with the assistance of the Acute Emergency doctors, has been involved with the Hospital Based Active Syndromic Surveillance of the diseases/conditions mentioned below, and reporting them weekly and monthly to WHO.

Cases reported from the hospital to Public Health are on a weekly basis.



Diarrhoea -The explicit advice to consistently observe good personal and food hygiene, safe drinking water and sanitation continues to be vital.

Dengue like illness- Four suspect cases were reported to Public Health and fortunately all were lab confirmed negative for dengue. Environmental risk assessment and control measures were still conducted and Public Health continues with dengue/mosquito awareness.

- Please look around your home/work places for possible mosquito breeding places and get rid of them. Don't give mosquitoes a place to breed.
- Empty water from buckets, cans, flower pots and other items. Cover up stored tires. Clean clogged rain gutters. If you store water in buckets or have a tank, make sure it is covered up.
- Take precautionary measures when travelling to Solomon Islands or any dengue endemic countries in the Pacific.
 - Call Public Health on phone number 29110 for more information on Dengue.

2013, National Bowling Championship July 27th – August 10th



Members of the 2012, Arorangi Bowling Club of Vaka Puaikura

By Ben Mose (BCI Media)

Never in the history of lawn bowls, or any other sport codes has almost 100% of Athlete's entry fees been channeled back to the pockets of the bowlers. Off course, high membership called for higher stakes in any sport across the nation.

There is no escaping the fact, membership numbers are decreasing and have been for the last 20 years. Sure, there are more people playing bowls thanks to the efficiency administration running of the Arorangi Bowling Club, mapping out competition week in and week out at the Rarotonga Bowling green. The recent proactive good standing standard pushed by Bowls Cook Islands to bring our 10 bowling clubs to good standing has been very successful. The President and the General Secretary should be commented.

As the clubs move into National Lawn Bowls Championship mode and the shifting of Members from club to club according to the BCI Constitution, the numbers become important

in order to participate in this major annual event for the year. Tomorrow the highest body of Bowls Cook Islands, the

Council, will give their approval to the recommendation by the Executive of BCI on how this year's National will be staged.

If you are looking for challengers in Lawn Bowls, don't think about it, just rock up and join a bowling club.



Rarotonga Bowling Club Men's Fours 2012 Silver Medalist

TE TAU'ANGA REVA `Ē TĒTA'I AU TAU'ANGA

na Rutera Taripo

I Rarotonga nei, no tēta'i ngā rā `ē rua 25 – 26 Tiūnu, ki roto i te `are `akatakapātoa o te Pitt Media i Parekura, te rave`ia nei tēta'i `iri`iri-kāpua nā te Minitirī o te Pae Moana (Ministry of Marine Resources) tei turuturu`ia mai `e te SPC `ē pērā katoa te AusAID.

Ko te tāpura tua-ta`i no tēia `iri`iri-kāpua koia `oki i roto i te reo `ingariti, ko te *'Priority adaptations to climate change for fisheries and aquaculture in Cook Islands: reducing risks and capitalising on opportunities'* koia `oki ko `Te au `akatanotano`anga pu`apinga kia tau ki te tau`anga reva i roto i te au tuātau tautai `ē te pāruru atu ma te `akamātūtū`anga o te au ora`anga i roto i te vai `ē te tai o te Kūki `Airani nei: ma te `akaiti mai i te au tāmanamanatā`anga, kia rauka te au pu`apinga e anoano`ia nei mei roto i te kī o te moana`. No reira, i roto i tēia `iri`iri-kāpua kua `akataka`ia rāi tēta'i au va`a tuatua tei mārama `ē te karape no runga rāi i tēia tāpura, `ē kia `o`ora mai rātou i tēta'i au rāvenga tau te kā iri atu ki runga i te tūranga no te pāruru atu `ē te `akamātūtū`anga i te kī o te moana.

Te anoano`ia nei te katoatoa i roto i tēia `iri`iri-kāpua:

- kia tā`okota`i tō rātou mārama no te tūranga o te tau`anga reva, `ē, `ea`a tē kā tupu ki runga i te tuātau tautai `ē pērā katoa te pāma poe.

- kia rauka `iā rātou i te `akataka mai i te au tā`i`i`anga o te kī o te moana, te tūranga o te kai `ē te ora`anga, `ē

- kia rauka `iā rātou i te `akamārama mai i te au rāvenga no te pāruru atu `ē pērā katoa kia rauka i te rave i te au tu rāvenga no te pāruru ma te `akameitaki atu.

Me tae ki te `openga o tēia `iri`iri-kāpua, ka anoano`ia mei te katoatoa tēta'i au `akano`ono`o`anga `ē tēta'i au `akapapa`anga kia mārama te au matakeinanga `ē kia rauka `iā rātou i te tā`anga`anga i tēia au rāvenga. Ko te au va`a tuatua no tēia `akakoro`anga koia ko Koroa Raumea (Dir.Inshore Aquaculture), Joshua Mitchell (Dir.Offshore Division), Johann Bell (Principal Fisheries Scientist), Arona Ngari & Anna Passfield (Climate Change), `ē Dorothy Solomona (Pearl Division).



Joshua Mitchell`ē Johann Bell



Dorothy Solomona



Tēta'i pae o te au mema i teia `iri`iri-kāpua no roto mai i tēta'i au Tipātimani kekē

How to overcome long standing problems *part 2*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

I believe there is no-one who has not faced a problem from time to time. There are problems we can solve ourselves; and there are those we need the help of others to solve. But what happens when we can't solve the problem? What if others can't help? What if we have tried everything and still the problem remains?

In the Bible in Mark 5v.25-34 is the story of a woman who had a problem for 12 years! Her blood was flowing out from within herself and she couldn't solve her problem. Others couldn't help her either. She used all her money paying people, doctors, to help her, but still her problem remains and it was getting worse each day. Although she was a wealthy person, she had used all her wealth in an attempt to get cured but her situation continued to deteriorate, gone from bad to worse. All she had left was the clothes on her.

When this woman heard of the healing power of God through Jesus Christ she was so determined to come to Jesus to help her. In Mark 5v.28 she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." When she touched Jesus garment, in v.29 it says "immediately she was completely healed."

Friend, this woman never gave up. She is a fighter even after 12 long years. Jesus said to this woman in v.34 "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble." This woman believed by Faith; and she acted in Faith; and she was Healed! She did what was humanly possible, and God through Jesus Christ did the impossible!

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

Hebrews 13v.8 reads "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Friend, if you have a long standing problem tell Jesus through prayer what the problem really is e.g. if you're sick tell Jesus what your sickness is. If you have been hurt perhaps by those closest to you rejecting you or abusing you tell Jesus everything.

Our Bible reading says that this woman "told Him the whole truth." Friend, God cares for our problems even our problems that have been bothering us for many years. I Peter 5v.7 read "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

The pre-requisite for this is we must believe by Faith and totally trust that God can, through His Son Jesus Christ, help resolve our problems. The woman in this story in Mark chapter 5 is a gentile who previously does not believe in God, yet when faced with a "long standing problem" she had no other choice except to turn to the Great Physician our Healer The Lord Jesus Christ. This was the turning point in her life.

So friend I encourage you to turn to Jesus and truly and sincerely commit your problems to Him through Faith and believing that Jesus can help you. Establish a permanent relationship with Him and allow Him to be your friend, your Lord and Saviour for life and experience overwhelming blessings from God through His Son Jesus Christ. May you have a God blessed week!



PUBLIC NOTICE



PRIVATE SECTOR TRADE WORKSHOP 29 AND 30 JULY 2013 NADI, FIJI.

The Chamber is calling for an expression of interest from those in the Private sector who are involved in exports or imports to attend the above workshop.

The purpose of this workshop is to increase the awareness and understanding of business in Pacific Island countries on the benefits of trade policies and trade agreements.

Please provide a written submission no later than Monday 31st July 2013 to.

Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce
E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck
or alternatively call lynne at the Chamber office 20925

Help! Assessment due in!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello, people! How's everything been? I hope that you've all had a great week so far. Last week, Tereora College held their Inter-house Rugby and Netball Competition, with Te Kou, Ikurangi, Te Manga and Maungaroa all battling it out for first place. Unfortunately, they have yet to reach a decision, due to some minor disagreements, but the results will be announced later on in the term. (Secretly, I am hoping that Ikurangi has taken the victory. Yellow pride all the way!) Watch this space for more info.

Anyway, back to the urgent matter at hand. Gosh, I hate having one of those weeks where teachers seem to be attacking you from all sides, using assignments as their weapons and homework

as the ammunition. Here's me, struggling to complete one internal and then another gets chucked at me. Honestly, where's the justice? If you're doing NCEA, like I am, then you probably know where I'm coming from. The worst thing is, is that the deadlines seem to clash with each other. I have to make priorities over which one I have to complete first. All senior students will experience this eventually, so don't think you're the only one.

I need help with one assignment in particular. I'm doing this for Media Studies and it requires us to find out more about our target audience's (that's you, dear reader) preferences, when it comes to documentaries. Yeah, it's not the coolest genre to be doing, but hey, you'd be

surprised with what some people come up with. I have to plan it out real carefully and I need your help. Because my internal states that my target audience is "local people", I can ask anyone, regardless of age or gender. I'd like to get a few responses from a few older people, since I've basically asked all the teens I know about what they'd like. I got the usual answers like a music/dancing video, funny clips, that sort of thing. One even suggested that I do one on the motorbike stunts they do inland, which is something I have taken into consideration. But it'll be interesting to see what the older, wiser people will have to say. I'll be getting feedback from different angles. You can email your age, gender

and basically a simple outline on what you would like to see in a documentary to: nngatamariki@gmail.com Please don't put down anything too extreme, like "a car chase in town". I don't have the equipment (not to mention, the money) to do that kind of thing.

Sometimes I wish I could tell these teachers to give me a break, but I know I can't do that (not unless I want to take a trip to the principal's office). That's just the way school is, I guess. The best way to deal with this sort of thing is to tackle it bit by bit, doing a bit of this assessment and a bit of that. That's my advice. Oh, and for the parents of Tereora students, Parent/Teacher Interviews are on Thursday (Just in case you didn't know, because your kid hasn't told you)

Sad life of a Teenager

By Hareta Tira Passfield

Okay, so this is a teenage column aimed at teenagers and I'm sure you all know how hard it is being a teenager, but for those few adults that read this (like my parents) this one is for you. Every morning we wake either to our parent's voices telling us "you're going to be late" or an annoying alarm. My alarm makes me want to throw it across the room. I used to press snooze and just go back to sleep which would result in "Hareta, wake up. You're going to be late for school... again". I now have new system; I set my alarm and put it across the room so in order to turn it off I actually have to leave the comfort of my bed just to turn it off. This

means it is so much harder for me to get back to sleep again.

I know we all have to wake up early but for some reason it's so much harder for a teenager. I personally love my sleep and could spend the whole day sleeping. Plus sleep for us is so much more important than for our parents. During the time we are sleeping, we are actually growing. Then to add on to the fact that we have to wake up early, we also have to attend this thing that I like to call prison but is more commonly referred to as "school". Yes, parents have to go to work but no matter what you say it's not the same. We sit through hours of doing Math, English, Science and so many more

boring subjects. We have certain rules at school that most work places do not have. Like how we have to plait our hair or that we aren't allowed to paint our nails. We get told off on a daily basis for the most ridiculous things. The most important difference is that we don't get paid for going to school.

We also face problems that our parents don't usually face such as bullying, homework, boys/girls, passing at school, gossip, and our parents nagging us to get off facebook and do something "constructive"

Then we have to worry about our parents. What they think about us and what will happen to us if we do something

wrong. Every time I'm just about to do something wrong, which is quite often, I always imagine what my parents will say. Not that it really matters to me what they think, it's more about how they will punish me if they found out. I don't know how, but my parents know everything. Most of your parents probably know everything that goes on in your life too. No matter how hard you try to hide it from them, they WILL find out whether they decide to confront you about it or not. They have spies that tell them everything from what boy you were with on a Friday night to whose party you attended. Being a teenager is hard. I hope all you parents realise it

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

got water?
Do your part, be water smart!

UN WATER
World Water Day
2013
International Year of
Water Cooperation

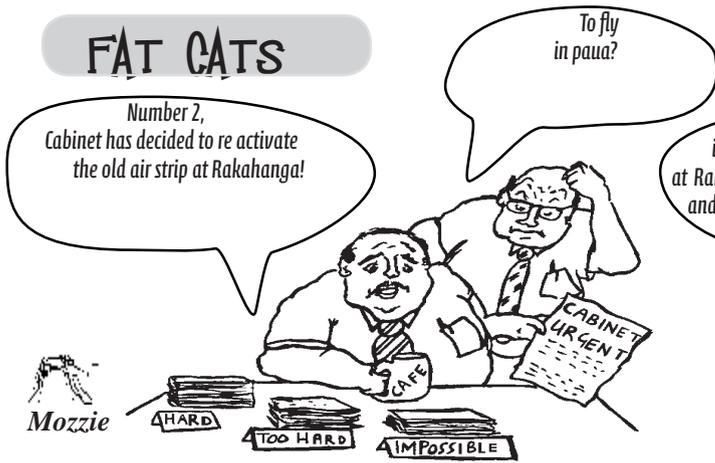
Every
DRÖP
counts

OFF THE TAP!!

MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Chook didn't finish his meal so had the staff doggie bag it to take home. While that was being done, the chook propped up the nearby bar and sank a few rounds. Ready to go, the chook goes back to his table to retrieve his doggie bag only to discover it had walked! Gone! Stolen!



Why isn't anyone making fresh, soft, yummy, cream donuts (with real cream) like they do in Kiwiland? Why? Why? Why?

One outfit near where the big silver birds roost, claims to make the best custard squares on the Rock! Since they are the only ones making them, then, their custard squares must be the best. There are no others to compare them to.



Chook says why should the public have to go and chat to the FSDA if it wants info on the offshore banking industry? Why isn't the FSDA proactive and putting out regular bulletins on the industry so it does not appear to the public to be operating in secrecy? Where are the regular updates on the industry from the FSDA in the media? Nowhere to be seen. Not every household has a computer and can log onto the internet. So c'mon FSDA-let's be more forthcoming and transparent! Publish some relevant data in the media! Enlighten the masses!



What bank, philanthropist, money

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



lender, Arab oil billionaire or Richard Branson entrepreneurial –like would invest \$30 million to build a 60 passenger, twin hulled, 15 knot speed, ferry to travel from Rarotonga to Aitutaki overnight, powered by an engine based around near 100 year old technology? For just US\$10 million, one could pick up a 58 metre long, single hull, wave piercing, fast ferry that can carry 360 passengers and 12 vehicles from Rarotonga to Aitutaki in less than three hours.



Teachers and nurses came out of the budget mire smelling of roses or rather, on the smell of a salary increase. But hang on all ye budding historians! Back in the troubled days of the 1996 recession, did not the teachers and others take a 10 percent pay cut with the promise from the CIP government of the time that parity would be restored when all got back to normal? Isn't this just what happened in the latest budget? The CIP honoring an old promise made to the professions back in 1996? What say ye

professors of political history?



Did Kata shoot himself in the foot over a cartoon last week about how CITV predicted the weather? Did he not know that it is the Met Office that prepares the weather clip for TV not CITV. Hopefully this little info will prevent Kata from shooting himself in the other foot.



Traditional Leaders attending the Koutu Nui meeting recently at the Pukapuka Hostel should have insisted all reports on their meeting to be in Maori. The weekly paper out of deep respect, as expected, did not wait to be asked or told or so commanded but reported on the event in Maori.



Now that the cruise liners have discovered the new jetty at Arorangi, the sooner they will land there and the sooner the local school can make some much needed dosh for educational resources by selling goods to tourists! The kids just love it! A day off school to sell to tourists and make some

dosh! Perhaps the Education Ministry budget should factor in likely earnings from the jetty! But will the Tax Man be looking into whether the school should be paying tax on the sale of goods? Hey, this could be a whole new revenue stream for government! If the Arorangi Jetty proves to be a great financial success, then why not build jetties by other schools?



Has anyone pointed out that of all the government appointed Boards, the BTIB pays its Board members the least? As the great Master Carver Tavioni, a former BTIB Board member once lamented, who would want to be on such a Board? Over worked and underpaid! Considering the hours spent pouring over other people's business papers and proposals, the time spent away from making money for your own business, the rewards go nowhere near compensating business folk involved on this Board. According to the great carver, this Board ought to be the highest remunerated of them all considering the importance of economic development, business innovation and foreign investment.

Cook Islands
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TENDER



PORTS AUTHORITY

**AVATIU PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
CIPA-9: CANTEEN AND FORKLIFT SHELTER**

1 The GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of the AVATIU PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Part of this loan will be used for payments under the contract named above.

2 The COOK ISLANDS PORTS AUTHORITY ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of:

CIPA-9: CANTEEN AND FORKLIFT SHELTER ("the Works").

3 National Competitive Bidding is being conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage, One envelope Bidding Procedure and is open to all eligible Bidders.

4 Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Access to, or availability of, financial resources to meet the cash flow requirement of the project. As a minimum the Tenderer must show that his resources, in terms of at least his latest year's working capital and lines of credit, will be adequate to cover his Tender Price and current work commitments.
- Evidence of past experience covering the scale and types of works required under this Project.
- The Tenderer must demonstrate that it has ownership of or secured access to the following key equipment listed below:

No.	Equipment Type and Characteristics	Min. Number Required
1	Crane	1
2	Truck	1
3	Cherry picker or manhoist	1

Further Eligibility and Qualification Criteria are outlined in the Tender Documents.

5 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Cook Islands Ports Authority from 26 June 2013 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday at the address indicated below.

6 To purchase a hard copy of the Engineering Drawing documents (in English), Bidders should apply to the address below and pay a non-refundable fee of NZ\$20.00 made payable to the Cook Islands Ports Authority. Alternatively, Bidders may obtain a copy of the bidding documents free of charge by providing a flash drive to Cook Islands Ports Authority for the bidding documents to be downloaded to.

7 There will be no Pre-Bid meeting. Bidders may arrange with the Employer to visit the site.

8 Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 PM on the 24 July 2013. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration. (Refer ITB 19.) Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 2.30 PM on the 24 July 2013

9 The Cook Islands Ports Authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

ADDRESS DETAILS

Mr Bim Tou, General Manager
Cook Islands Ports Authority
Ara Tapu, Avatiu, Rarotonga
Tel No.: +682 21921, Fax No.: +682 21191
E-mail: bim.tou@ports.co.ck

TENDER



**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
Phone: +682 20321

PUBLIC NOTICE



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER COMMISSIONER
- GREEN LIGHT PROJECT.**

Our contractors have circled the island and noted there are households with no one home and therefore have not received their bulbs. This advert is to advise we will be circling the island again to specifically target these households. To do this we will be starting in Ruatonga Meeting House to Tupapa and Ruatonga Meeting House to Nikao area – the dividing line between the two is the Ruatonga road. If you are one of the households who qualify for a replacement CFL Bulb(s) and have not received yours yet please call Ms Caroline Wichman on 25494 ext 838 at the Office of the Energy Commissioner to leave the following information:

Meter Box number,
Name and phone number
Area, and exact location of house,
How many incandescent bulbs require replacing,
Times (between 8am & 4pm) when someone will be home over the coming week beginning Thursday 13th June, 2013.
Please note this notice is for those households only (for now) in the Tupapa to Ruatonga to Nikao area

PUBLIC NOTICE



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:

- 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.**
- 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.
- For the Outer Islands, prices established have been reviewed and updated to include freight, wharfage, boating, reefing, drum/container cost, evaporation and cartage costs.
- 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.
- All previous references in any Price Order as to the selling prices listed in this Order are hereby revoked upon effective dates above.
- The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired.

Brian Terrence Hagan
Chairman for the Price Tribunal



Given under my hand this 30th day of May 2013.

Tatiana Burn
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	2.45	2.73	3.01	3.07	June 12, 2013
DIESEL	2.23	2.51	2.79	2.85	June 12, 2013



The **COOK ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
together with
The **YOUNG ENTERPRISE TRUST**

warmly invite you to attend the

**YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCHEME
DRAGON'S DEN**

where three teams of Year 13 students from the Young Enterprise Scheme at Tereora College will present their Plans to build a business in order to develop a Cook Islands product for sale

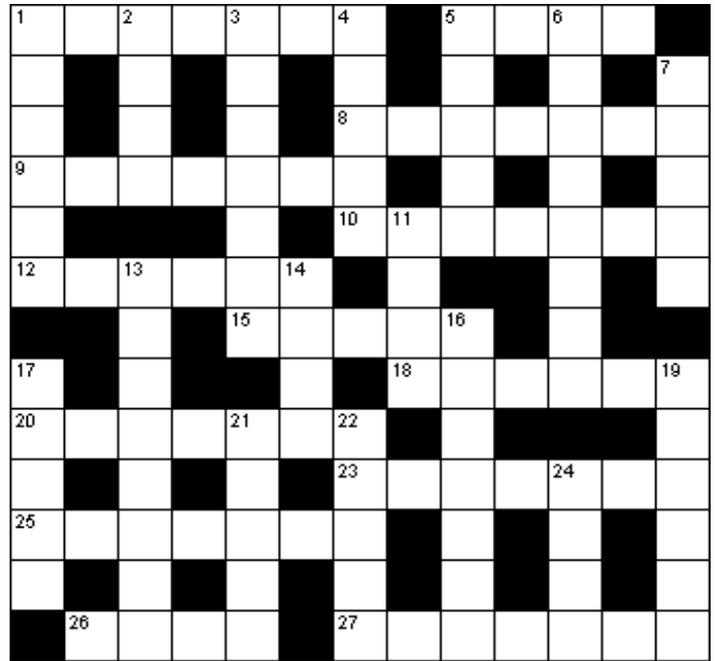
Crown Beach Conference Room
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Thursday 27 June 2013
5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Please RSVP to: The Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce
E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck
Phone: 20 925

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 25th JUNE 2013

CROSSWORD



Across

- Having stripes (7)
- Of like kind (4)
- Person who sells saddlery (7)
- Function (7)
- Energetic (7)
- Collect (6)
- Arranges (5)
- Faculties (6)
- Sandy shores (7)
- Fur hunter (7)
- Foreknow (7)
- Covetousness (4)
- Mistrust (7)

3. Fuss (7)

- Gave a measured amount (5)
- Republic in NE Africa (5)
- Discoverer of America (8)
- Dress (5)
- Tibetan oxen (4)
- Preliminary test (5,3)
- Charge per unit (4)
- Governing bodies (7)
- Behind (5)
- Shoot forth (6)
- Hurried (5)
- Simmers (5)
- Attitude (4)

Down

- Powerful (6)
- Tear down (4)

