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14 August 2013

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PM discusses China funded projects with Ambassador

The Prime Minister Henry Puna has sought the cooperation of the Chinese Government in engaging local companies in aid development projects.

In the first of a series of bilateral discussions in Wellington, the Prime Minister met with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jiangou to discuss areas of mutual interest.

In their Sunday evening meeting, Puna highlighted to the Ambassador the importance of involving locally-based businesses and contractors and sought the support of the Ambassador to ensure their participation in moving the China-funded projects forward. The Prime Minister informed the Ambassador that the local private sector community are familiar with the working environment and so would be best suited to deliver some of these services.

The meeting with the PRC was an opportunity for the Prime Minister to confirm with the Ambassador, the Cook Islands Strategy to utilize Chinese grant funding for the next 3 years. The Strategy sets out the priority projects to be funded under this envelope:

- Pearl farming equipment to help stimulate pearl farm production;
- agriculture equipment to revitalize agriculture production to reduce importation of produce and increase self-reliance;
- Northern Group roofing to enable the islands to capture roof water; upgrade of airport in Atiu to facilitate the expansion of tourism industry to the outer islands;
- building repairs to some public office blocks; and the
- purchase of suitable Outer Islands heavy



machinery to assist the Island Administrations to undertake various projects to support economic, social and infrastructure.

The Prime Minister said limited local capacity was a constraint to moving quickly to get these projects off the ground and he envisaged the Infrastructure Committee would help facilitate this process.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to congratulate exiting Queen's Representative Sir Frederick

Goodwin for his service and welcomed the former Deputy Prime Minister, Tom Marsters to the post.

The Ambassador also commended the Prime Minister on his excellent stewardship of the Forum Leaders Group and felt that the Prime Minister had initiated many important activities in the region.

The Prime Minister extended to the Chinese Ambassador, the Cook Islands' appreciation for the generous support.

PM's attendance at Asia Plus meeting the highlight

The Prime Minister returned on Tuesday following a successful appearance at the Asia Plus Luncheon at Te Papa Museum, attendance at the Cook Islands Constitution Celebrations in Wellington, and several bilateral meetings with a number of diplomatic representatives in the New Zealand capital.

The Asia Plus event attracted a high number of the diplomatic corps in

Wellington. Normally, the event hosted on a monthly basis, attracts only a small number of dignitaries given their extremely tight schedules. However, with the knowledge of the attendance of the Cook Islands Prime Minister, there was great interest in securing an invitation to attend the private affair.

Organized by the Cook Islands High Commission in Wellington, the Cook

Islands High Commissioner Tiki Matapo and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps the Canadian High Commissioner Caroline Chretien, were absolutely excited with the attendance of the Prime Minister, with many of the dignitaries commenting on the high standard set by the Cook Islands High Commission.

In his speech to the diplomatic corps, the Prime Minister highlighted

the opportunities that partnerships with these countries bring to the Cook Islands as well as to the region. The Cook Islands, he said, has enjoyed long associations of historic ties with many of the countries present – politically and culturally – and share a genuine interest in preserving and strengthening relations built on trust, friendship, and close cooperation.

Murienua : a key victory for the Democratic Party

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

I have just returned from a visit to my electoral constituency Tongareva and was planning to cast each and every one of you under the spell of that beautiful and un-spoilt island but that has to wait. Much more immediate is the contest for the Murienua seat recently vacated. The Cook Islands Party hopes for a candidate with Demo colours painted all over him, namely Kaota Tuariki and the Democratic Party charge is the entrepreneur extraordinaire James Beer, a multi talented Cook Islander. It appears that the stage has been set and by September 19th (exactly 36 days from today), one of these two is going to be the new Member of Parliament for Murienua.

Being an MP is a very serious matter especially in these days of greater accountability and transparency. Every politician is under the ever watchful eye of the public and that scrutiny begins the moment they accept nomination to stand for whichever side. The CIP candidate does not fare well in that respect. He is after all in the brutal language of politics a "turn coat", a man who deserted his party, betrayed his colleagues and friends for the enemy. In these days of anti-"vaka" hopping in which the Democratic Party truly upholds after the passing of the 2008 Electoral Amendment Act, Kaota may well be the "Alamain Kopu" of Cook Islands politics. Alamain Kopu was a New Zealand politician that vanished out of profile when she swapped political allegiances, a fate dealt to her by the ever watchful and adjudging public.

Well, Kaota hopes to win the seat for the CIP. Gosh, excuse me mate, you ain't gonna get anywhere when you had bolted from your stables for short term selfish gains. And certainly it's going to be difficult to justify when one begins in a flip flop manner. You see, loyalty is important and so is trust. I don't think many will trust him according to track record thus far.

The Democratic Party believes that winning Murienua is going to be a key victory for it and will be a step closer towards throwing this rather insensitive and non-caring Government out. James Beer is of Rarotonga, Mangaia ancestry apart from being the son of staunch Democratic supporter James Beer Snr. In the heydays of Democratic Party founder Papa Sir Tom Davis, James Beer Snr and many others fought for the installation of Democratic principles and human rights for all Cook Islanders during the reign of an earlier CIP Government. Young James to a sense is carrying on his father's wishes and beliefs.

As the Leader of the Democratic Party and Opposition in Parliament, I stand strongly behind James and believe that he will make a good MP. That's because he has a vision and a proven track record of building his business empire from nothing into an economic might. He also has promise to engage in debates about lawmaking in Parliament and he has a track record of advocating for political and economic reform – things that this country of ours needs to grasp hold of.

Certainly James has, as compared to days of youthful exuberance, grown wiser and much more caring of the people of his constituency. He has been now with his committee for two rounds of electoral battle. Remember James was a valiant runner up in a close battle in the 2010 general elections. That shows that there is trust and faith that has developed between them and which continues to grow. If any lessons about people, humility, caring, sensitivity, respect has been learned James will have done so and that makes him a better all round politician and person. Murienua will be three by-elections in a row if the Demos win it and I have my fingers crossed. Only after the Demo victory will I tell you all the beautiful stories of Tongareva. Remember a vote for James Beer is a step closer for a new Democratic Party Government.



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Bishop out of the pan into the fire

Drops a \$30,000 bomb on Cabinet



Matson's second ship MV Liloa announced to service the Cook Islands in tandem with MV Olomana.

Scandal ridden Teina Bishop's name is becoming synonymous with the controversy now coined as Bishopgate. This time he surfaces as the possible culprit concerning the secretive approval of a new shipping service involving a close relative.

Ministry of Transport now being overseen by the Prime Minister Henry Puna is in full, red alert, retrospective, damage control. Highly embarrassed by unconfirmed irregular activity in the Ministry, no public announcements are forthcoming until some semblance of order is hastily manufactured behind closed doors.

A soon to be released media statement by two shipping stakeholders is expected to divert public attention from the CIP Government's corruption of the Ministry of Transport's best practises and lawful protocols.

For the last three weeks stakeholders in the shipping industry have been asking the hard questions on the Matson Shipping Company's announcement of an additional ship servicing Rarotonga. Matson issued a public notice on 5th August to the industry stating they would be providing another ship the MV Liloa to operate in tandem with the MV Olomana effective immediately.

Questions were being asked three weeks prior to the notification issued to Cook Islands customers, Matariki FM owner William Framhein had read an online media release through the Samoa Observer and another on Facebook on Monday 15th July 2013 but was unable to have the news confirmed by those he asked including three cabinet ministers.

Framhein questions why the three week delay in the announcement was first made in Samoa?

Even the Secretary of Transport Ned Howard has pleaded ignorant. Further inquiries indicated the MV Liloa will arrive

Rarotonga mid September.

Framhein claims EXCIL Shipping, Trevor Clark and Brett Porter are linked with the new Matson service.

While the newly licensed shipping service is more likely to negatively affect the Sword's family shipping business which operates the MV Tiare Moana they are yet to make a public comment apart from take up the issue with their Member of Parliament Mark Brown. Framhein said he had raised the matter with Brown three times since he first became aware of the online press release by Matson. He said Brown was unaware of Matson receiving another license



Hopefully controversial Minister Bishop is getting good advice from Dr Joe while no one wants to sit near him.

which would potentially create a monopoly.

On his weekly Matariki FM radio programme Norman George also raised the issue of the latest misadventures of Bishop and sponsorship received from Matson. George was questioning the link between the shipping licence and possible exchange for the sponsorship. George claimed it smelt like a repeat of the Bounty scandal where money changed hands for a fishing licence.

It is known Matson's Strategic Development Manager Michael Jones had been turned down by the then Transport Minister Tom Marsters for the additional licence several times since June. Cabinet is to yet to confirm Associate Minister of Transport Teina Bishop issued the license until the Prime Minister has spoken to him.

Ned Howard's claim of not knowing who directed the Matson license to be issued is questionable seeing he processes the license. In addition to that, Howard's wife Rita is Bishop's CEO.

Cabinet's concern goes beyond

Bishop's connection to Matson's new licence. Matson's \$30,000 sponsorship of Aitutaki's Maire Nui celebration negotiated by Bishop is likely to be questioned by the public as being treating. Senior Cook Islands Party members are at a loss at the antics of Bishop and the continued damage he is doing to the CIP brand.

Government had allocated \$15,000 for Aitutaki's Maire Nui celebrations. Air Raro was also a sponsor and by the way emcee Bishop was handing out the cash prizes in the name his different businesses was also a sizeable sponsor. Questions of who received Matson's sponsorship cheque needs to be clarified and made transparent as it is suspected some of their sponsorship money was declared as being from Bishop's companies.

Shipping stakeholders are unhappy the newly issued licence was issued to a current shipper and not made known to a third party to prevent a possible monopoly. What has happened to the shipping licence issued to

CIP members Vaine and Arama Wichman?

The group led by Bond Store's Richard Barton have expressed their interest in receiving a shipping licence and were denied in the past, so why weren't they advised a new licence was available? Why was Cabinet kept out of the loop? These are the \$30,000 questions Bishop needs to come clean on.

Prime Minister Henry Puna's inability to curb Bishop's continued damage to the CIP is shrouded with suspicion the rumours he and Bishop have struck a deal over a constituency shift for both. Needing a guaranteed safe seat for the next general elections, there is no certainty Manihiki will return Puna to parliament without the long awaited harbour development to at least being started.

Bishop's Aitutaki constituency the CIP strong hold Arutanga Reureu Nikaupara (ARN) was previously held for a lengthy period by Henry Puna's brother Ngairaitaina Puna. An option for Henry at the next general elections

is he will stand in ARN and Bishop will shift to the Vaiepeka Vaipae Tautu constituency at the expense of existing CIP MP Mona Ioane.

Politics is self serving, so how PM Puna handles Bishop's latest embarrassing activities will be observed with interest. Right now Puna personally needs a plan A and a plan B, how he deals with Bishop will be a reflection of how crucial plan B is to his political future.

Bishop has openly spoken of pursuing a different political agenda to the CIP Government if he is short changed when the PM has a portfolio reshuffle. Bishop's demands include the Ministry of Finance and the removal of a current Board chairman. A Democratic Party win in the Murienua bye election will trigger Bishop's political disclosure.

Bishop's parasitic business associates have their remote control claws so imbedded into him Bishop's obligations require him to be in a position of political manipulation even if it requires jumping the CIP ship.

- by George Pitt

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Bribery investigation a concern to Chinese government?

By Charles Pitt

Will the Police investigation into allegations of bribery against Marine Minister Teina Bishop have the potential to place the various Chinese funded projects at risk?

It is not known what consideration was given this possibility when the complaint was laid with Police.

The Herald understands the matter was not raised when PM Henry Puna met the Chinese Ambassador in Wellington recently.

Given the level of Chinese government investment and funding in their fishing industry, the allegations would be a very serious concern to the Chinese government hierarchy. That's because any allegations of unlawful activities would reflect very badly on the Chinese government, internationally.

The mere hint or perception of untoward activity may compel the Chinese government itself to take some pro-active action in respect of Luen Thai Fishing Ventures Ltd. If the Chinese government concludes that the company's actions have caused some disrespect or mistrust, they may censure or reprimand the company's management.

If the Chinese government goes so far as to end the company's subsidies, the company may have no option but to pull the



Chinese Businessman Sam Chou

plug on the project to set up a fish trans-shipment facility on Rarotonga which promised 60 much needed jobs for locals and millions of much needed dollars in tax revenues for government. It may even cease the offloading of its by-catch to local retailers for sale, sending local prices for fish beyond \$10 a kilo.

For the Cook Islands, foreign investment which builds our economy and creates jobs, is important because with our falling population, we cannot generate sufficient tax revenues to grow our economy. At best, our tax revenues only amount

to about \$90 million which is not enough to pay public servants and infrastructure/renewable energy projects let alone the interest on the loans we have taken out.

Only one country has been prepared to put up the really big money and assistance we need to improve our economy and living standards and that is China.

Government realizes the importance of China's assistance to our development hence the PM should be making strenuous efforts to assure the Chinese government the investigation is not an investigation of the

Chinese government itself, it's practices and policies. Any failure to deliver such an assurance could result in a very serious outcome—a loss of face on the part of the Chinese.

The PM will also be concerned that nothing jeopardizes his upcoming trip to China to meet the new Chinese President and officials and the opportunities that will avail themselves, especially under the One China Policy document signed in 1997, to hold fruitful bilateral discussions on future joint projects and funding arrangements.



Congratulations to Mrs. Amiria Davey

Organization- Aitutaki Disability Council
Our Woman for this month, nominated by the Aitutaki Disability Council is Mrs Amiria Davey, better known as Aunty Amiria. Amiria is married to Richard Davey from Aitutaki and has 12 beautiful children. She is a loving sister to 6 brothers and 8 sisters and was born and bred in Aitutaki.

During her childhood education, Amiria attended Aitutaki Primary School. From 1959 to 1961, Amiria attended Tereora College, from 1962 to 1964, she attended the Teachers Training College, she taught at Atiu Junior High School for 4 years from 1965 to 1969 and she also taught at the Aitutaki Junior High School; Araura College from 1970 to 1988. Amiria became the Deputy Principal at Vaitau School from 1989 to 1999. A year after she became principal up until 2005, where she then retired at the end of 2005.

A strong woman of faith Amiria is a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of the Cook Islands; she works wonders in the church, carrying out the role as the president for the Womens Group, treasurer for the Church, session clerk for the church and advisor/Counselor for the Church Youth. With the Tautu Cook Islands Christian Church, Amiria dedicates her time to being secretary for the Vainetini Ekalesia Tautu, she is the Officer for the Tautu Girls Brigade Company and National Assistant Patroness for the Cook



Woman of the Month - Amiria Davey

Islands Girls Brigade. Mrs. Davey is always involved with church functions all over the outer islands. Within the community, she is the secretary for the Aitutaki Child Welfare and the Secretary of the Aitutaki Netball Association; she also conducts and organizes land meetings all over Aitutaki.

On a more personal note, Amiria takes up much interest in women's group activities such

as tivaivai making, which is one of her personal favorite hobbies. She also enjoys singing in her spare time by working with Are Korero O Aitutaki, which involves composing. Like other Aitutaki women, Amiria loves to go fishing and take part in cultural activities. She also she has a very strong passion for working with the less privileged, and lifting the spirits of the elderly and disabled.

Our Woman of the Month

sets her goal at being the peacekeeper in all organizations that she works within... "This will not happen if God is not within me" she says. Amiria leaves for Aitutaki this Friday. From the team at Cook Islands Herald, the Women in Sports Commission and all its sponsors, we'd like to congratulate Aunty Amiria on her award and wish her all the best in her future community involvements.

2013 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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14. ANZ Bank/Sponsors Trophy
15. Aunty Kafo- Kafoteria Café - lunch for 2
16. International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.
17. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

National consultations on coastal fisheries issues to begin

The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) will be undertaking a series of stakeholder consultations throughout the Cook Islands on important issues concerning coastal fisheries.

Over the next five weeks a team of MMR staffs and a consultant will be visiting islands in the northern and southern group to discuss the sea cucumber fishery, climate change resilience and formulate a national coastal fisheries policy.

According to MMR the funding for the consultations are from a mixed bag of project and programmed activities.

The bulk of funds are provided under the ACP Fish II Programme funded by the European Union. The purpose of the ACP project is to support sustainable use of resource by developing fisheries plans and regulations for the sea cucumber and trochus fisheries.

In many countries around the world the sea cucumber fisheries have been overexploited and stocks have declined to the point where there is no longer a viable fishery in these countries. Importers, who drive the demand for these resources, particularly in China where demand and prices are high, are now turning a lot of attention to the Cook Islands as a new source.

The visit will also cover inception phase for the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project funded by European Union and SPC. Stakeholder views will be sought to build climate



Ben Ponia, Augustine Mobiha, Jo Akroyd

change resilience through environmental monitoring and sustainable fisheries for the future.

MMR scientists will also remain behind to conduct resource surveys including a harvest quota for sea cucumber on Pukapuka and Penrhyn.

To wrap up the Ministry

will be seeking to get an updated overview of the coastal fishery sector in order to develop a national coastal fisheries policy. The team hope to get an update on the priority areas for coastal fisheries development both inshore and deep sea and

The consultations will be led by the secretary, Mr Ben

Ponia and MMR directors Mr Kori Raumea and Ms Dorothy Solomona, MMR GCCA project manager Mr Teariki Rongo and ACP consultant Ms Jo Akroyd.

The team is scheduled to visit Aitutaki, Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Penrhyn, Mangia and Aitu starting this week.



Some of the Youth who served up free breakfast on Wednesday morning in the park opposite the Banana Court to raise funds. Photo by Maria Tanner

Empire Theatre upgrades cinema to 2D and 3D

After two years in the planning, Rarotonga is going 2D and 3D full DCP (digital compliance projector) system at the Empire Cinema starting Thursday 16th August 2013. The Empire Cinema have now joined the Global shift to enhancing audience cinema experience by moving from the 35 mm cinematography film experience to the latest and new digital platform, DCP. Additionally, a brand new Xtreme Silver screen, measuring 15 metre wide x 7 metre high sourced from the USA has also been installed. The brand new equipment have all been sourced from the USA, Italy, Belgium, Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand through Edge Digital Technology.

DCP is accessed online via the internet and downloaded into a server. This has been a huge investment particularly with the chronic ongoing movie piracy problem here on Rarotonga.

Empire Cinema will be screening movies through the digital DCP equipment which has recently been installed this week, initially with 3 screenings per day and increasing to 5 or more later in the year. With the investment in the DCP system, the prices will naturally have to be increased to cover the investment and costs involved however it is still much lower than New Zealand movie ticket prices. The conversion

from 35 mm system to the new DCP system has been a major challenging project and involved bringing two DCP system technicians from New Zealand to oversee the conversion, installation and upgrading of the Empire Cinema equipment.

During the installation and trialling period, everyone that have experienced the new DCP system now at the Empire Cinema are very excited about the new experience including the Xtreme silver screen.

We would like to acknowledge the support of Morrie Morrison (our technician and long time friend) the very professional support from Richard Harris of Edge Digital Technology, our local contractor and builder, the versatile and amazing Nuku Rangi and his gang, the efficient and professional T & M Heather and our local bank BCI and everyone involved that has been involved since the concept of going 2D and 3D full digital was first floated.

Rarotonga now has a choice of either experiencing the movie experience in 2D digital or 3D digital, with the first screening to the public on Thursday 16th August 2013 at 4:15pm, 6:15pm and 8:30pm.

Check out our latest movie release, Pacific Rim – An action packed, must see movie. A war between humankind and monstrous sea creatures. See this movie in either 2D or 3D.

Wanted

A unique Cook Islands logo for the
Cook Islands Marine Park

Here's your chance to **design a unique logo for our Cook Islands Marine Park**. The competition is open to everyone resident in the Cook Islands and to all Cook Islanders living elsewhere.

Time is tight! Entries need to be received by
5pm Friday 16th August.

The winning logo will be used extensively on products, printed material, clothing, media releases, websites, pretty much everything associated with the Cook Islands Marine Park. So, the design needs to be easily applied to fabric, paper, and on-line. Apart from that requirement, your "Cook Islands Marine Park ocean canvas" is wide open!

The designer of the winning logo will receive NZ\$500.

Entries, in a high resolution format and containing a descriptor, need to include a contact name, address and phone number and can be hand delivered, emailed, or posted (or 2 of the 3) to:

Communications Coordinator, Cook Islands Marine Park, PO Box 649, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; TIS Office (half way between Tamarind House and the Fishing Club); email Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com; any queries to Jaewynn McKay on phone 21 144; cell 55 486; or to the above email address.







Bringing controls into the age of automaton

Part of the challenge of dealing with the renewable energy jig-saw puzzle is getting from point A to point B. Point A is where we are today. Point B is the place we are trying to get to.

We can frame our situation this way. We have a number of generators for producing power that are aging, sturdy and weighty. This is point A.

During the old days when we were reliant on heavy sulphur laden fossil fuel, those generators provided us with herculean, trusty service in helping to keep the lights on and the wheels of industry churning in Rarotonga. However, it's also true that if you were planning a renewable energy operation they would not be your first choice of machine. They're more like slow workhorses rather than speedy stallions.

So in a sense we are dealing with two different situations where the tools that worked really well in one situation may not work so good in the other.

Renewable energy flows have greater variability than flows from fossil fuels. We know the sun's energy does not stream in a constant fashion – it can fluctuate all over the place and go from zero to intense in a moment of time. So anything that you can do to speed signals



Inside the control room of the Avatiu Power Station

and responses to variability is very helpful – even if the savings is only in the form of a few seconds. This is where even partially automated controls can be a blessing.

The recently published Hawaii Solar Integration Study highlighted the importance of responding to the variability of PV on the electric grid. It found that adding governor controls to the central-station PV plants on Oahu would enable them to respond to loss-of-load events. This is Point B that we talked about in the opening paragraph.

Another metaphor that comes to mind in describing the transition we are seeking is that

of switching from driving a vehicle that has manual gears to another one which is automatic drive. The transition to a renewable energy future feels a bit like that.

But for now we are simply embarking on early transitional steps, heading out from point A along the path that will sometime in the future land us at point B. It's a matter of one step at a time.

While we can't hope to emulate the plants on Oahu because our current machines are mostly old and a little bit clunky, it does explain why TAU is taking this time to partially automate the controls at the Avatiu Power Station.

This project has been in the

planning and design stage for a few months but now we will retrofit four of the station's generators of different ages and types so they can demonstrate improvements in their responsive capability. This means installing them with the following upgrades: governors, automatic voltage regulators, and auto synchronisers.

While the generators won't be fully automated, the project is nevertheless crucial to upgrading the operations of the Avatiu Power Station.

It will also play a vital role in future in responding to the effects of variability due to renewable energy flow on the electric grid.



Havana good time in Cuba

By Charles Pitt

Studying for seven years to become a Doctor is hard enough but to do it in another country and another language is a big ask.

For 20 yr old Cook Islander from Tupapa Norman Tangi, learning to speak, read and understand Spanish turned out to be quite straight forward.

Along with other foreign students from around the world, Norman is in his 10th month of a 7 year medical school course at Elam University in Havana, Cuba, to become a general practitioner.

Norman is back in Rarotonga on a summer vacation and the Herald caught up with him at his parent's home in Tupapa on Tuesday evening. Norman is the son of former Tupapa MP and New Hope Church Senior Pastor John Tangi.

Norman is on a course sponsored by the government of Cuba and attends the Havana campus which has up to 3,000 medical students. In all says Norman, there are around 20,000 other medical students attending courses in other provinces.

Norman and the other foreign students are housed on campus and apart from everything being in Spanish, life is fairly normal in most respects. He is at the campus with another Cook Islander, Tutai Vakalalabure. Students from other Pacific nations are also there.

As a city, Havana says Norman is probably about the size of Rarotonga in area. The people are friendly and treat foreigners well. Tourism is on the increase and life in general is quite cheap compared to Rarotonga. Taxis and buses are the main form of transport and a typical taxi ride would cost the equivalent of 10 cents. The main sport is baseball however, on campus a variety of sports are played including Soccer, Volleyball and Rugby.

Norman keeps up with news



Norman Tangi

from home via the internet and says broadband in Cuba is about as fast as it is on Rarotonga. The media, newspapers and TV are all in Spanish.

While in Rarotonga, Norman is working in the Pharmacy at Rarotonga Hospital.

Academically, Norman, now fluent in the Spanish language, attained a B grade for Chemistry and three A grades in Maths, Physics and Biology. The papers were all done in Spanish.

What motivated Norman to take up medicine was a work experience stint during one school holidays at the Ministry of Health while at Tereora College.

Norman says it is not until you have been somewhere like Cuba that you really appreciate the life you have in the Cook Islands in terms of the peace, tranquility, lifestyle and opportunity. Opportunity says Norman because young Cook Islanders have good prospects of scholarships and pathways to higher learning.

Norman returns to Cuba at the end of the month by way of LA and Panama.



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Scenes from Penrhyn Te Maeva Nui

Photos courtesy of MP Wilkie Rasmussen



Scenes from Penrhyn Te Maeva Nui



Retain existing water pipes for agriculture

By Charles Pitt

Several locals involved in agriculture are suggesting that the current water ring main be retained instead of being replaced completely under the joint Chinese/NZ/ Cook Islands government funded water project.

A previous report by overseas experts into our ring main, mentions that the piping has a life of 200 years. To replace the existing piping now will therefore be premature.

Locals are saying the existing ring mains be retained exclusively for agricultural use and reserve the new mains piping for households and hotels. This would ensure that water to households is not affected by growers drawing water off the same system. It would also mean the Water Division of MOIP would have better monitoring and control over water used for agriculture during extended droughts. For example, whereas previously growers were asked to water their crops during the evening, the Water Division can enforce this by shutting off the supply at appointed times. When all sectors of society share the same piping system, restrictions hurt all sectors and control is more difficult.

Over 70 percent of the old piping has been upgraded and the remaining 30 percent which is said to be responsible for around 70 percent of the leakage, should be remedied.

The new piping will carry treated water fit for drinking while the old piping can carry untreated water suitable for growers and planters.

One local grower says maintaining a dual system means that in the event of a major failure in the new system, households and hotels could revert to the old system for the duration of any emergency.

Auckland 2013 Te Maeva Nui Results

Imene Tuki (Traditional Hymn)

3. Akatokamanava
2. Te Au O Tonga
1. Rakahanga

Ute (Traditional Song)

3. Rakahanga
2. Te Au O Tonga
1. Akatokamanava

Kapa Rima (Action Song)

3. Rakahanga
2. Te Au O Tonga
1. Akatokamanava

Ura Pau (Drum Dance)

3. Te Au O Tonga
2. Rakahanga
1. Akatokamanava

Rakei (Best Costume)

Akatokamanava

Tangi Kaara (Drumming)

Takitumu

Akatokamanava

3. Rakahanga
2. Tahiti Ia Ora
1. Te Au O Tonga

Overall Winners

1. Akatokamanava
2. Te Au O Tonga
3. Rakahanga

Results courtesy of
Bernard Tairea

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Best ever Android Apps

Snapseed

While Instagram may have cornered the market for filtered photo-sharing on the fly, Snapseed offers much deeper photo editing tools for free. While not quite as powerful as Photoshop, Snapseed can bring a whole new level to pictures on your mobile device.

Pinterest

Social corkboard site Pinterest landed on Android and iOS devices this month, so you can access your account on the go. For the uninitiated, Pinterest is another popular network of ways to discover, collect, and share "beautiful things you find on the Web."

Plume

Plume is, hands-down, the best Twitter client for Android. Recently updated for Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich, Plume uses the horizontal, column-based stream seen in many Twitter clients. However it adds a home tab with widgets to access Trends, Lists, Favorites, and Search bar. There's also plenty of room for customizing your interface, from font size to the color of your timeline.

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Asia Plus Luncheon

Te Papa Museum, Wellington, 12 August 2013

Keynote Address by Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands

Salutations, Excellencies
High Commissioner of
Canada Caroline Chretien,
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
Cook Islands High
Commissioner to New Zealand,
Tiki Matapo

Distinguished Ambassadors
and High Commissioners of the
Asia Plus Group

Special Guest Heads of
Missions from the broader
Diplomatic Corps

Kia Orana and Greetings from
the Cook Islands

On behalf of the Government
and the people of the Cook
Islands, I'd like to begin by
extending my thanks to the Asia
Plus Group for the kind invitation
to address you here today, and
for including the representation
of some of our friends from
outside of the Group here in
Wellington, to join us on this
special occasion.

The last occasion in which
I was so deeply embedded
among Ambassadors and
Representatives was in
Washington DC in June. That
event was of course, Pacific
Day, an annual celebration
by our Pacific peoples in the
United States to showcase
the rich diversity of cultural
heritage and the challenges we
face as a Region – especially in
terms of the preservation and
advancement of our respective
livelihoods and futures – as
Islanders.

While Washington DC
represents a significant political
nerve centre, Wellington too,
has a dynamic heartbeat of its
own – the pulse of which we
feel throughout the Pacific as a
result of the strong diplomatic
representation among you all,
here today.

I know that with many of
you, the Cook Islands has
enjoyed long associations of
historic ties – politically and
culturally – and share a genuine
interest in preserving and
strengthening relations built
on trust, friendship, and close
cooperation.

So I'm very happy to be here to
speak to a captive, international
audience, and to share with you

some insights as a Polynesian
Leader, and as the outgoing Chair
of the Pacific Islands Forum. In
some respects, this will be a
warm-up to my handing over of
the key position to my colleague
in the Marshall Islands, President
Loeak, early next month.

For today, I'd like to touch
primarily on the Cook Islands.

Present you with some current
perspectives.

And describe some of the
challenges we face: from the
national level through to the
Regional level of politics – and
what that means for one of the
Smallest of the Smaller Islands
Developing States in the Pacific,
and in the world.

As you may already be
aware, seven of the Pacific
Islands Forum members have
populations of less than 100,000
people. The Cook Islands,
with an approximate 13,000
residential population, is the
fourth least populous of these
SIDS – ahead of Tuvalu, Nauru,
and Niue. And perhaps similarly
with Niue, we have experienced
a creeping increase of pressures
and constraints brought on by
depopulation to New Zealand
and Australia.

At the time we attained our
constitutional status of self-
government in 1965, Cook
Islanders resident in New
Zealand were estimated at about
14,000. Today, that number is
well in excess of 60,000 with
many more thousands expanding
across Australia – thanks to
an economic boom and easy
access for New Zealand citizens
– including Cook Islanders. In
fact, New Zealand itself has
been losing more than 50,000
people a year across the Tasman
for similar reasons.

For Cook Islanders, the
right of free access to New
Zealand planted the seeds for
depopulation as expatriate
communities overseas began to
flourish in the post-war boom
years. Many of our men and
women were packed off to
work as well as study as scholar-
shippers.

Nearly 50 years later, the
non-returnees continue to build

despite a deeply-rooted land
tenure system based on family
entitlement, and our best efforts
as politicians and governments
to build a more prosperous and
opportunity-accessible nation.

In more recent decades,
depopulation has exacerbated
population drift – a trend that
reflects and presents additional
pressures and constraints as a
result of an internal imbalance
in the distribution of wealth,
resources, and opportunity.

To outsiders, including
our closest partners, the
concentrated growth and
development on Rarotonga is a
picture of perfection – a model
of investment and maturity
indicative of a high standard of
living and an egalitarian society
of consumers, who have the
best of all worlds within their
reach. Yes, to many, Rarotonga
is a thriving business centre of
economic potential and relative
prosperity.

For those of you who have
had the experience of a visit
to Rarotonga – for business or
pleasure – you might be forgiven
for believing that the Cook
Islands is in a good place. A
very good place. Economically.
Socially. Politically.

However – I do hate to 'burst
the bubble' for Rarotongans –
but Rarotonga is not the Cook
Islands.

Yes, Rarotonga accommodates
about 73% of the national
population; produces 95% of our
tax revenues; generates 90% of
the national electricity output;
and carries nearly all the 11,000
registered vehicles on an island
of about 9,000 residents.

But it does not represent the
12 inhabited islands; the two
world-renown sea-bird breeding
islands Suvarrow or Takutea, or
the long-disused copra base of
Manuae, which make up the 15
islands of the Cook Islands.

Concentrated wealth and
development is both a blessing
and a curse. And a challenge
that many Pacific Islands face,
under growing pressures on
the sustainability of assets and
resources, and the need for
sound development planning

and management.

To help address these
imbalances adequately – across
the social spectrum of gender
equity, health and education
services, infrastructure
investment, and economic
opportunity – we need the help
of close partners, who appreciate
these constraints as they apply
to our respective unique and
specific environments.

Our small Outer Islands
communities need this help,
especially since the fight against
Climate Change, and the need for
timely financing for adaptation,
has an unyielding urgency.

Small Islands Developing
States in the Pacific in general,
need a greater depth of
assessment and understanding
– not necessarily in quantity but
with quality: Quality of attention
and application, to enable and
implement change, for the
better.

Above all, we need friends and
partners who are going to be
there for us.

Our most important friend and
partner, who has been there for
more than a century is, of course,
been New Zealand. The Cook
Islands and New Zealand have
a special bond that is captured
under our Constitution, shaped
and measured by convention,
and an evolving relationship of
shared values, as New Zealand
citizens.

The relationship is special,
unique, and even mystifying
to some. It can be argued for
instance that the Cook Islands
enjoys a status of 'Independence
Plus' – a condition or state of
sovereignty with something
added rather than something
taken away.

I agree with that and can see
how some of our partners might
question how and why the Cook
Islands should even think about
joining the United Nations when
we already have accessibility to
what the world has to offer us,
and conversely, what we can
contribute to global community
affairs.

No other country in the world
for example, has managed to
engage the People's Republic of

China in a tripartite aid project that is equivalent to the Three Gorges Dam development in scale.

That milestone was launched last year and is progressing well in its development stages with China, New Zealand, and the Cook Islands, working closely together on a \$60 million water transformation of Rarotonga – our largest, most ambitious development project to date.

The conduct of our relations over the years has been the subject of internal discussions for some time, as the Cook Islands looks ahead to how its international identity may evolve further in future years.

This is a discussion that carries a high degree of sensitivity and demands considerable courage and commitment on our part, and the part of New Zealand, to speak to each other as equals – equals who separately, have their own speed of evolving values and ideas but together must talk about how change impacts upon the other.

This is the heart of a real partnership.

And as I mentioned to notable policy thinkers in Washington DC recently, partnerships in the Pacific — begin with presence: being there to recognise and meet the needs and cries for help from our Region. After all, the Pacific is not interested in providing an arena for competitive political influence between superpowers. We're simply interested in developing close working ties with partners, who share our interests, support our priorities, and assist our goals.

While we value and regard partnerships built on mutual trust, understanding and reciprocity in our relations, the Cook Islands and other Pacific States are also taking a stronger command of setting targets and achieving objectives.

Last year for example, as hosts of the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting, I encouraged a strengthened perspective of outward thinking, and a renewed projection of our identity to the rest of the world – the Pacific as Large Ocean Islands States.

As Forum Chair, I have had less interest in 'playing the victim' and more drive to promote ourselves for what we are and what we have: an oceanscape

of islands, which have sovereign command over a significant area of the globe, and its natural resources – including tuna fisheries, and seabed mineral deposits.

The tendency to portray the Pacific – at least historically – as small islands with little to offer in the way of resources or ideas is well behind us now.

With collective ocean territories three times the size of the United States and nearly two times the size of Russia – you can imagine why it is important for us to focus on the ways in which we can redefine ourselves, on our own terms.

Now, more than ever before, Pacific Island engagement in the management of ocean resources has increased the urgency for sound management stewardship regimes in our ocean spaces.

As the traditional custodians of the Pacific, we have made concerted efforts to ensure that the use, enjoyment and access of benefits derived from our ocean will be equitable for present and future generations.

For years, we have exercised our sovereign rights over the management of our ocean through treaties like the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; cooperative agreements governing the dumping and transshipment of hazardous waste; and the submission of Continental Shelf claims, which underpin our continued interest and exploration into seabed mining.

We are building on aspirations to maximise economic returns from our ocean resources, especially fisheries and seabed minerals, in accordance with the precautionary approach of Rio Principle 15.

A decade ago the Cook Islands also declared its 2 million square kilometre EEZ as a Whale Sanctuary and as recently as this year, a Shark Sanctuary.

This step came soon after a 2012 declaration to establish a 1 million square kilometre Marine Park Reserve in the Southern half of our territory, as well as a historic signing in Rarotonga where seven Pacific Islands nations formalised eight Maritime Boundary Agreements – simultaneously – the first time this has been conducted anywhere in the world.

There is no other region on Earth where the kinship and

close relationships between maritime neighbours has allowed such a collegial and equitable negotiation of sovereign boundaries in a spirit of shared mutual progression and trust.

The signing of these eight treaties was a definitive step towards better defining the management frameworks for our ocean areas. It stands as an important message to the world about regional collaboration, unity and the importance of ocean resources to the Pacific Islands.

These are initiatives of which the Pacific can be proud. The oceans' resources – particularly our fisheries – are our livelihood and it's important that we continue to build on the positive progress in working with our bigger partners like the United States and our Multi-lateral Fisheries Treaty.

While we anticipate substantial benefits from our collaborative efforts in the sustainable management of our oceans resources, we are mindful of the increasingly damaging impacts upon our land and marine environment as a result of Climate Change.

The adversity of Climate Change, extreme weather including cyclones, sea surges, droughts and salinization, coral degradation and acidification, is presenting us with our most daunting challenge: the need for adaptation and the security of financing to cope with massive and widespread loss.

We are at the losing end of Climate Change in more ways than one. And coping with loss is an experience we all share.

We all understand the meaning of disaster, the extremities and patterns of change and the absolute need for resilience: in preparedness for what will come, and an enduring spirit to bounce back from ruin.

The global conversation on Climate Change has been a difficult path for the Pacific's Small Islands Developing States. The agenda for negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its processes, is a crowded one but one in which the Pacific stands with other SIDS under the Alliance of Small Islands States.

We are committed to the work and progress of talks as AOSIS continues to uphold a priority for

action by the global community.

In May this year, the Cook Islands hosted the first in a series of five regional consultations on the Nansen Initiative – a world-wide promotion of a protection agenda for those displaced by natural disasters, including Climate Change.

The global discussion on the displacement of people across borders because of this threat to survival is expected to gain momentum over the course of the next two years but already, the prospect of losing one's home – and country – as a result of Climate Change, is near the surface of concerns with a number of Pacific nations.

Human mobility, as I have already described in the case of the Cook Islands, has been an increasingly critical factor in the development and economic progress of the Pacific.

We need to retain our people. Without our greatest asset – the people of the Pacific – greater command over our future will remain at risk. Skills-building and empowerment will become hollow objectives, and the gains we have made across the region to promote and institute principles of good governance and more inclusive systems that advance the status of women as well as youth in our communities, will be severely eroded.

I am particularly pleased that over the past year, the gains of which I have mentioned, have established clear and meaningful steps toward improving gender equity in the Pacific.

Last August in Rarotonga, the Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, recognising the need to continue to support and encourage concerted efforts to effectively address the entrenched disadvantages that many women face in education, economic development, social advancement, and representation at the political level.

Much more remains to be done to instill 'zero tolerance' for violence against women and girls in our respective societies but the steps we have taken now are a tremendous move forward.

Last October, I was also privileged to help launch a Regional Action Plan on Women Peace and Security – a new framework that recognises the role that women can and do play

in conflict resolution and peace processes.

We must value these contributions and ensure that the recognition of groups and individual women are part of our search for truth and sustained peace.

As further building of our capacity to work collectively and inclusively is strengthened, Pacific Leaders are now looking forward to discussing in Majuro the outcomes of a major review of the Pacific Plan – the Region's blueprint and master strategy for cooperation and integration on issues of priority for member states of the Forum.

This review is our forward-looking analysis of how we can unify our efforts to confront the challenges we face as a region.

The future relevance and appropriateness of our brand of regionalism is at the heart of this self-examination, which we expect will provide considerable food for thought in the coming months.

Among the policy challenges we are facing in our Region are those that impact upon our ability to uphold the four pillars of priority: for continued economic growth; sustainable development; good governance; and security.

We have a newly-emerging priority in Energy Security and the need to transform our consumption, and break our dependency on fossil fuels.

The Pacific is acting as one in this regard, and earlier this year marked the new priority with a Leaders' Summit in Tonga, and Auckland, to reinforce a collective approach to the development of National Strategies and implementation of Renewable Energy projects.

Political will at the highest levels is driving this collective vision – both as a necessary foundation and an effective tool in attracting the investment and partnerships we need to achieve our ambitious goals.

Our renewable energy targets are ambitious. I would be the first to admit it. But stepping forward with courage and conviction is a sound beginning and I am pleased to say that with a self-determined effort to succeed, we have established clear roadmaps. We have set the policy paths. And we have embarked upon firm projects.

Tokelau, the Kingdom of

Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia – we are all making gains to cease our dependency on fossil fuels.

For the Cook Islands, our target to be 100% driven by renewable energy by 2020 will be the driving, economic centre-piece of our global promotions as a clean and green destination.

Energy partnerships and investment have already begun to yield results in our Region. The Pacific Plan is helping by providing the development framework in which to prioritise aid assistance to the Region.

Aid flows to the Pacific and the steady growth of partnerships with major powers, such as the People's Republic of China, as well as the European Union, has stimulated deeper analyses, and calls for a greater understanding of aid application and effectiveness.

The role of aid and its impact on the Pacific will continue to present complex questions over sustainable development and our ability to meet those challenges on our own.

Regionalism and how we want to – and should – address our needs does provoke a degree of uncertainty, especially in the wake of emerging sub-regional priorities, and the accompanying debate over whether we are seeing the erosion of broader cooperative frameworks.

My preference is to promote the virtues of sub-regionalism – not the negative connotations.

Rather than undermining our broader Pacific voice, the motivation to formalise commonality among fewer entities is a natural inclination – and a sound step toward hardening the building blocks for a higher purpose.

That's where we need to focus our sights: the higher goals of embracing all Pacific peoples irrespective of ethnicity or the imperfect fit of governance models, which can curb our desire to weave a richer fabric of meaningful ties among nations.

In this regard, I'd like to make special mention of the Polynesian Leaders Group – a fledgling organisation established in

Samoa in 2011 and advanced in the Cook Islands last year with eight founding members committed to the promotion of cultural traditions, language preservation, and economic and social well-being.

American Samoa, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tokelau, and Tuvalu are those eight members, which now want to explore how the reach of Polynesia can be given renewed meaning with the Maori Iwi of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Native Hawaiians in the North of our triangular ocean space.

Polynesians of course, have a deep, spiritual link to the ocean – establishing voyaging lanes across the Pacific over many centuries as navigators of the vast sea known to us as Moana Nui O Kiva.

Our respect for the ocean and the life it supports begins here – sharing a rich heritage among our Polynesian peoples – and with you all – our friends from around the world. Thank you very much and Kia Manuia.

Demos back on air



The Democratic Party opposition resumed its Political Broadcast on Radio Cook Islands at 11am Wednesday morning. The show was kicked off by Leader of the Opposition and Smiley Heather. The show will be broadcast every Wednesday morning.

Like a Moko drinking

By Carmel Beattie

In the land of my birth, we have an expression – flat out, like a lizard drinking – which means that you are incredibly busy. I have modified it for the local vernacular although I must say I haven't seen too many Mokos drinking but they are certainly flat out when attached to my ceiling!

I was thinking of this expression today as I was totting up all the jobs/things that I have to do, should do, haven't done and want to do while feeling my heart rate increase and myself starting to hyperventilate. How is it that we live in a tropical paradise, surrounded by sparkling blue ocean (well, most days it is blue) and palm fringed beaches and the majority of us are too busy to enjoy it?

When talking to visitors here or friends when I am out of the country, I usually have to disabuse them of the idea that we spend our carefree days frolicking on the beach, gathering shells for our necklaces and flowers for our hair. I can understand why they think that and must take a lot of responsibility because our images for Tourism all portray that side of life and my Facebook photos are certainly part of my guerrilla marketing campaign for the Cooks so only show gorgeous sunsets, smiling happy people and lots of cheers from various social events.

Of course, we do have this side of our lives and that is why we love it here – to me there is nothing better to cleanse the cares of a stressful or busy day than sinking into the lagoon in the evening and watching the sun

set BUT wow, do most people I know work incredibly hard and deserve that end of the day chill out!

I am always in awe of families who all go out to work during the day and at night or on the weekend, work to tend their land and animals or work to produce goods, food, art to sell at the markets every weekend and sometimes during the week. I know that here in the Cook Islands, very few people get high wages and therefore it is necessary to supplement your income to give yourself and your family the advantages of life – better home, better educational opportunities etc. However, I never fail to be impressed by the sacrifice that Cook Islanders make to do so.

Then there are those who work incredibly hard not for money but to help others in the community or to ensure that their children understand the importance and beauty of their culture. Nothing could be more obvious than the extraordinary dedication and hard work that went into the delivery of Te Maeve Nui.

For those of us who were lucky enough to enjoy the performances, I wonder if it is with the understanding of the long hours that go into not just the development of the performances but also the costumes and the themes. For me, it has only been in the last year or so when I have known friends who were performing that I realised the extent of the sleepless nights and the lost weekends that went into the months of preparation for 5 minutes on stage. Knowing that has made the performances even more



precious and meaningful to me and I continue to be staggered by the talent, the stamina, the dedication, the humour and the beauty of everyone who takes part. It isn't just the exquisite young girls gliding across the stage or the scrumptious warriors (well, they are!) but also the 'seniors' who sing, train and guide them and the helpers who cook and sew and provide for them.

SO – I guess that a good life here is not about having to make a just about having fun in the sun but living life

to the full. Being 'flat out' is not a bad thing and in fact, it ensures the vibrancy of life here because our version of flat out is not just work but also community, family and playtime and that makes for a place for a home which is always rich with opportunity.

I'll stop hyperventilating and take one 'job' at a time and then plan to make sure that my life reflects this vibrancy and diversity and the big question for me? I wonder if I'll get the opportunity to be part of the Takitumu UTE next year??

Honouring God in your job - a missionary opportunity

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this article last week I noted that if you do a good job, you will always have a job. Perhaps this might not be true in every case. Nevertheless, in Acts 1v.8 Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Every Christian who is in a workplace is given the opportunity to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of that witness will spiritually impact others. The Bible commends hard work and condemns laziness. The Book of Proverbs curses laziness in work Proverbs 18v.9 (GN) reads "A lazy person is as bad as someone who is destructive." Galatians 6v.7 says "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Jesus said in Matthew 5v.16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." God want us to use our place of work, as 'lamp-stands!' "We are the light of the world!" said Jesus in Matthew 5v.14! God see you and I as 'Children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, amongst whom you shine as lights in the world.' (Philip. 2v.15). Our jobs are more than for the purpose of earning a living. It is an avenue for revealing Jesus Christ in us! Not just what we say (verbal witness), but rather what we do (visible witness). As Christians, we are called to do all things to the glory of God!

Lesson 1, we honour God in our job by being HONEST. Our true nature can be revealed through our work. As a person of integrity, a Christian should not take advantage of their employer or employees because they represent God in their job!

Lesson 2,, we honour God

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

in our job by being DILIGENT. In the Old Testament of the Bible in Daniel 6v.1-5, we will see that Daniel is an excellent example of how we can honour God in our job. Daniel worked hard. He left nothing undone as he carried out his duties as a public servant. Diligent is 'striving for the best quality of work we are capable of doing!' One of the nature of many Southeast Asian workers is that they desire to perform better at their job often as a mark of respect and gratitude to their employer for the privilege of a job. In their spare time they will enroll in courses for self improvement in their field of employment because they want to give their very best for the company. If the company prospers, they too will prosper! They create the guarantee of continued employment by their Diligence! Although Daniel was in Babylon, a corrupt and ungodly society, Daniel did not compromise his Honesty and Diligence!

Lesson 3, we honour God in our job by being TRUSTWORTHY Daniel's critics concluded that he was Trustworthy! As Christians, we should be people worthy of the confidence and trust of others! The test of our trustworthiness in our workplace is when the boss is not there. Can your boss trust you? Do your job as though you're working for God! Promotion is often a result of recognized trust in a worker. We need to lift up our standards in our workplace, and raise the quality of our work. Paul said in Colossians 3v.23 "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and



not to man." If we honour God in our jobs, we will be better witnesses, we will have job security, we will receive promotion, and more pay, and I believe we will receive greater job satisfaction! The whole purpose of relating well to our work is not only for personal gain and happiness, but also for our effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Don't take anymore sick leave when you are not sick, be HONEST with your employer,

ask for time-off if you need to go and do something urgent. Be DILIGENT in your work, ask God to inspire you and cause you to be creative. Seek self improvement by doing some courses or training. Be TRUSTWORTHY on your job! Bring honour to God in your job, it is a powerful way of witnessing and winning people to the Lord Jesus Christ! May you and your family have a God blessed week – te Atua te aroa.

Random Stuff

By Norma Ngatamariki

Yahoo! We are in the first week of Term Three for school and, to be honest, it's already starting to suck. Senior students (the ones doing NCEA) are feeling the pressure, worrying about whether or not they have enough credits to get through the year. Nobody wants to repeat a level and get left behind, so we better step up our game. Oh, and to top it off, our NCEA fees are due in by the end of this month, so some of us have some serious saving to do (The fees came down from \$76.60 to \$67.00. Nice!)

But enough with the gloomy stuff. What have YOU been up to, dear reader? Now that the holidays are over, reality has kicked in. It's almost the end of the year, people! Let's take a moment to reflect all we have done up until now. You probably

had goals or resolutions at the beginning of the year, saying how you were going to lose a couple pounds or do better in school. Or, to simply be better in all aspects of your life, whether it be academic, sports, social or cultural. So, here's the big question. Have you achieved the goals you've set up for yourself? Hopefully, you have had some progress. If not, don't stress! There's still four months to go and you'd be amazed at how much people can do within that small amount of time. My opinion is that, if your heart is dead set on it and you put in the effort, anything is possible really. However, for the school things, keep in mind that there are only eight weeks in Term Three and four weeks in Term Four (with a measly one week holiday in between) All of that time can whizz by

fast, so make the most of it!

Okay, let's back away from the serious stuff. Seeing as the Constitution was two weeks ago, what was your honest opinion on it? Did the performances shock you off your seat or could you suggest some improvements? Even though this year's Te Maeva Nui only lasted for, like, three days, they were packed with entertainment and fun! Well done to all those who participated and good on Vaka Takitumu for a fantastic comeback. We all expected great things from you and you didn't disappoint us in the slightest. The Trade Days were a different story though, as the outer islands didn't make an appearance this year. Despite the emptiness, the food was great (especially those cupcakes from the Island

Creations stall. Fantastic stuff, guys!)

Another change of topic. Did you apply for the 'Keep Smilin' video for Tourism Cook Islands? According to my "sources" (who are really my friends who did work experience over at Tourism) said that there were over three hundred applicants! However, only a few people made the effort to actually complete the video and submit their final product or "masterpieces". Anticipation runs high as people wait for the panels' decision. The first prize in an iPad Mini and the second prize is a day trip to Aitutaki. Good luck to all those who entered!

As you may have gathered, I have written about some totally random stuff because I wanted to share with you all of these things.

We can change!

By Hareta Tira Passfield

Well I don't know about you but I have had the best holidays ever! I was kinda bummed to miss Te Maeva Nui. But I'm over it now. I had the best time over in New Zealand. I got like a whole new wardrobe plus I got to see all my sisters, cousins and my adorable nephew.

Anyway back to the serious stuff, today in English class we're given a new assessment and that was to write and present a speech. There were a number of topics I could have chosen but I decided to come up with my own and do bullying. I know you are all thinking "how un-original" but it's something I feel strongly about. Whether you know it

or not you're a bully, and as much as I hate to admit it I'm a bully. Every time you call someone a mean name or you insult someone it's bullying, it doesn't matter if you say it to their face or behind their back. Did you know that New Zealand has the second highest rate of school bullying in the world. We can't compare to them but even if you don't notice it, it's still a big problem here and around the Pacific

Bullying is so much more than just mean words and getting physically hurt. Every time someone says something mean to me, it really hurts me deep down. Certain things that people have said have changed the way I think. Being called ugly and worthless

are just some of the things that I've been called. It made me think that I actually am those things. I hated it, but because I overcame all those hurtful things it has made me a stronger person today. There are those that have it so bad that they can't overcome it. They end up hurting themselves or committing suicide. I know of one story you may or may not have heard about. A girl had this boyfriend and she thought she loved him, he asked for some photos of her without her top and bra on. Because she thought she was in love and he'd never show anyone, she obliged and sent them to him. Later when they broke up, he shared those same photos

around. She was emailed hate, such as slut, skank and slag. Those words caused her to kill herself. Those people did not just bully her, they caused her to kill herself.

That is just one of the many stories I have heard about people committing suicide because of bullying. I'm writing this so next time you are about to say something mean to someone, think about what could happen. Because it may just come back to bite you. Don't judge people unless you are perfect yourself. And you are not! Your words could end up hurting an innocent person. Think before you act and don't say something that you are going to end up regretting for the rest of your life.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

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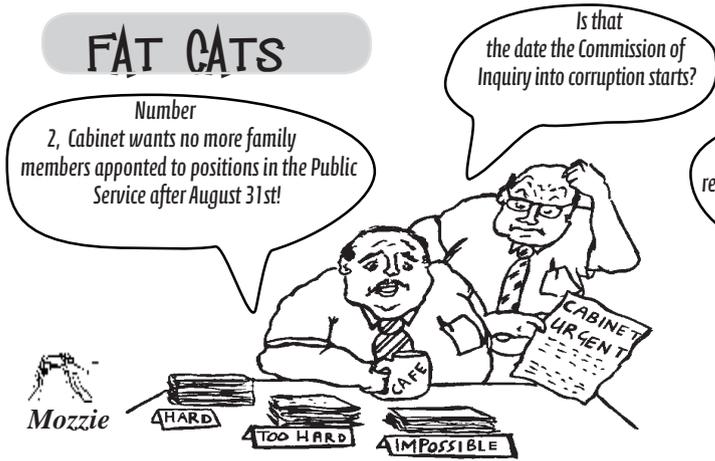
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FAT CATS



Number 2, Cabinet wants no more family members appointed to positions in the Public Service after August 31st!

Is that the date the Commission of Inquiry into corruption starts?

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Rumour has it, Government is to stop relatives from getting cushy, high paying jobs in government!

When will this start?

After all relatives are safely employed!

Big Red has been rubbing his big crystal balls extra hard this week and the vision which has appeared is of the Bishop conceding to the lesser experienced Brownie becoming the top dog's Aide de Comp provided the Bishop takes the reins of a Finance horse galloping wildly through the makatea. The Bishop claims superiority in business matters at a higher level than encountered by Brownie the chippie.



Neneva Neves' feeble dribble in response to his heartless treatment of a critically sick Cook Islander isn't an isolated incident. Recently a 77 year old business woman who owed tax had great difficulty leaving for urgent medical treatment after suffering a stroke. Another 70 plus year old woman was refused departure to NZ for a medical till she paid her deceased husband's overdue tax. And that's not all Neves, crawl back into your wombat nest and stop bullying people.



Heard about the politician who likes to exert his crumbling power by making malicious phone calls whenever it's a new moon and he's been drinking too much? Talk about small fish trying to make a splash in a big pond. What about his parasitic short man syndrome mate who wants government to pay his \$100,000 personal bill, a lot of bad news meticulously catalogued

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



and researched over many years is about to be dumped on this upstart who depends on political patronage who's days of throwing his weight around political circles is about to be fully exposed without fear or favour.



Wonder what major advertiser and revenue earner for the daily dribble Murienua Demo candidate Jimco thought when he saw his CIP opponent being promoted and given a free, sizeable colour photo and campaign launch story on the front page. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you.



TOA boss the self serving Porter on the receiving end of a monthly top up business bonus of \$120,000 from the tax payer has no shame about flaunting his new \$65,000 pickup and continued lavish lifestyle let alone his new business start ups.



Rumour quietly doing the inner Puaikura circles is that Bishop has pledged to support Bobcat Heather for PM in a leadership challenge if

he gets the DPM with Finance. Watch Bobcat Heather lobbying for clemency for Bishop in Cabinet.



Whisper chooks is some business types are very worried the new BTIB members may take a gander at some of the old files. Worried but they are not going public about it. Why? Because only a person or persons with something to hide from the public would be worried.



The Great Vaile of the Valley's gunning for motorists to shun Toa Petroleum and buy their fuel from Triad but is that the wrong option if you want the tax payer to stop forking out for Toa under the Toagate plan? If more money is spent at the Toa pumps, it means the tax payer will pay less to Toa for its losses! And where is gunner Vaile at the moment? Not buying fuel from Toa that's for sure!



Count on a swift end and hard crash landing for the tenure of some high flying ex-pats in Finance if the Bishop gets to be the new Finance Minister! The Bishop is about to cull the flock by whipping the

cushions from out under the ex-pat brigade warming seats among the moolah! How does the Bishop get his paws on the money bag? In exchange for the Brown one getting the assistant's jobbie-that's how!



Whisper chooks is that fairly soon Mike "Elephant Man" Henry will be running the CIIC at which time we will see the dredging of the Aitutaki harbour and channel fast tracked! Fast tracked so that his sail boat the Tiare thing-a-me can get right up to the wharf! It is testimony to his ability as a businessman that he would invest in a sail boat that did not have the capability to get right into port and tie up alongside the wharf! The cost to dredge the harbour and the channel has been estimated at \$4 million.



One public service bossman has been coming to work early in order to catch latecomers! If only a few other bosses did the same, this chappie wouldn't be alone! PSC-a medal for this bloke! Such devotion to duty, a throw back to the old days, is most heartening! The tax payer dollar is in good hands!

Cook Islands
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PITT MEDIA GROUP

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Cook Islands Language Week in NZ



PM Puna, CE Ministry of Pacific Islands Affairs, Pauline Winter and Reno Paotonu a senior policy analyst at MPIA, during the closing ceremony of the Cook Islands Language Week in New Zealand held at the Cook Islands Hall, Cannons Creek in Porirua. *Photos courtesy of Jaewyn Mckay*



VACANCY



ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

The Ports Authority invites suitably qualified persons with experience in undertaking Environment Impact Assessments to complete a report for the Orongo Project on the island of Aitutaki.

The Orongo Project will entail

- The rebuilding and development of the wharf frontage area together with ancillary buildings,
- The widening and deepening of the existing Aitutaki Passage,
- The development of a small boat Marina Basin (in front of the Fishing Club Building.)

A Terms of Reference (TOR) document, for the completion of the EIA together with some scheme plans showing the works required to be considered within the project area are available from the office of the Ports Authority, Avatiu upon the registration of your credentials with the Authority. Or you may e-mail your credentials to bim.tou@ports.co.ck who will respond accordingly.

The EIA report for the Orongo Project is required to be completed within four months of acceptance of a successful tenderer and such tenderer must be available and become involved in public consultations and transparency during the reports preparation.

During this time the successful tenderer will be required to work with the Project Co-ordinator on all matters pertaining to the successful completion of the EIA through to the reports acceptance by the National Environment Service.

Submissions of interest with details of experience together with tendered amount to complete the EIA must be delivered to the address below at or before 3.00 PM on the 4th September 2013.

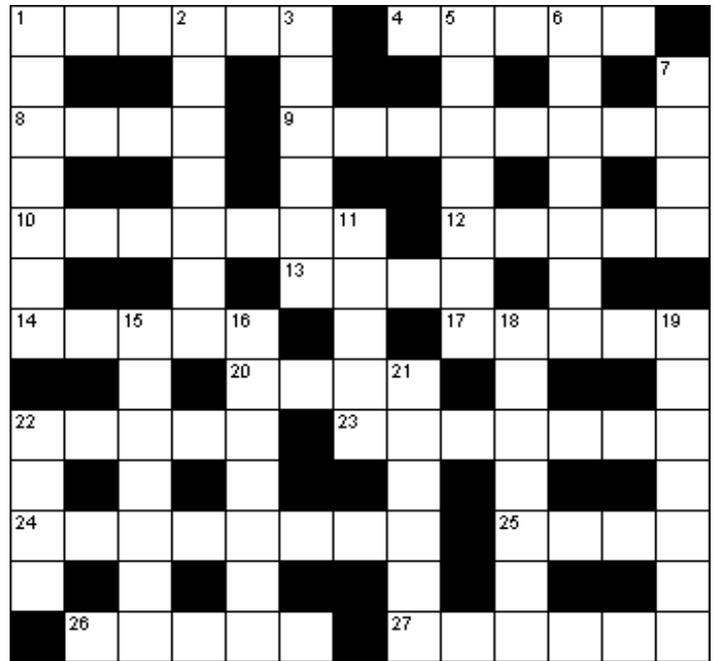
The Ports Authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by tenderers in connection with the preparation or delivery of tenders.

ADDRESS DETAILS

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E-mail: bim.tou@ports.co.ck

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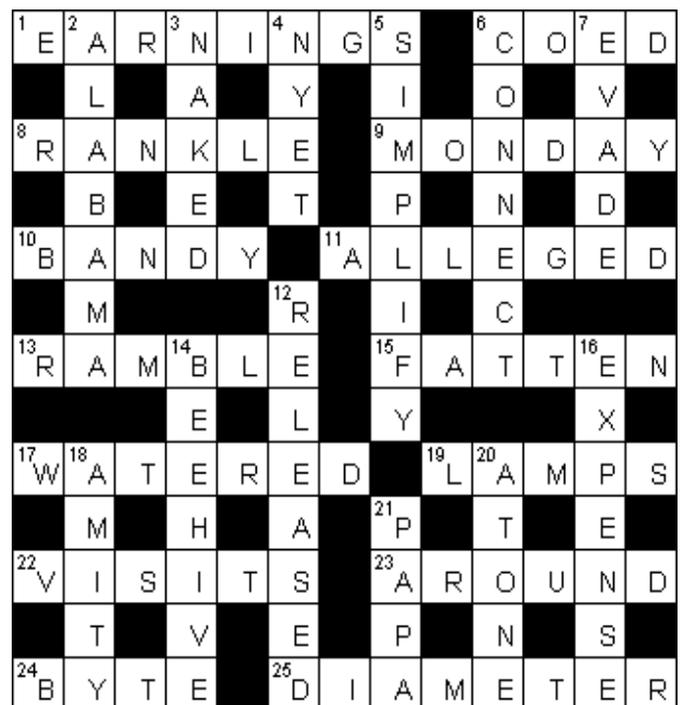


Across

1. Head rest (6)
4. Atomize (5)
8. Capital of Switzerland (4)
9. Town in NE Scotland (8)
10. Confined within limits (7)
12. Pond scum (5)
13. Eurasian crow (4)
14. Apportion (5)
17. Senior (5)
20. Person in authority (4)
22. Existence (5)
23. Strong liquor from Mexico (7)
24. Legible (8)
25. Amusement (4)
26. Eats (5)
27. Run aground (6)

Down

1. Small stones (7)
2. Taller and thinner (7)
3. Less strong (6)
5. Share (7)
6. Exacted retribution (7)
7. Poker stake (4)
11. Distrust (5)
15. Give life to (7)
16. Country of the United Kingdom (7)
18. Person that lounges (7)
19. Hindmost part (4,3)
21. Cuts off (6)
22. Relieve gas (4)



1 E 2 A 3 R 4 N 5 I 6 N 7 G 8 S 9 C 10 O 11 E 12 D
 L A Y I O V
 8 R 9 A 10 N 11 K 12 L 13 E 14 M 15 O 16 N 17 D 18 A 19 Y
 B E T P N D
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 17 W 18 A 19 T 20 E 21 R 22 E 23 D 24 L 25 A 26 M 27 P 28 S
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