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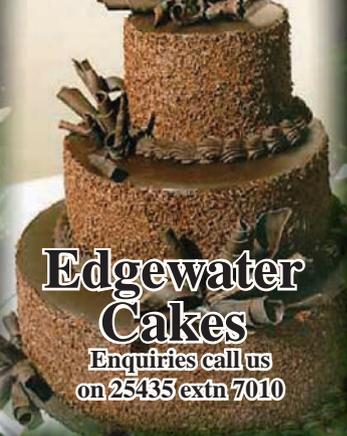
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PM attends 4th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Blue Economy Summit



The opening in Abu Dhabi kicked off at 9am on Friday 17 January – the 4th Assembly of IRENA. The meeting finished at 7pm and we went for dinner. IRENA currently has 124 members, comprised of UN States – this is the main reason why we are not yet a member, you have to be a UN member. The PM is attending as Observer so that the Cook Islands keeps abreast of the progress and developments in global RE. IRENA has already extended quite a bit of help to Tonga and another three Pacific countries are signing agreements tomorrow, which will pave the way for more new projects in the Pacific. The Cook Islands is plugging in wherever it can so that the national interest is maintained and gets access to whatever assistance IRENA can provide.

The PM is confident that the Cook Islands is still near the forefront of RE development in the Pacific despite the country not being formal members of IRENA. Fortunately, Government articulated national RE Targets very early – three years ago – and subsequently developed a roadmap and national priority for energy security. The Cook Islands has also completed several studies, including viability, grid connectivity and stability. Many countries are not even at this stage. Our Energy Efficiency progress is also

advanced, comparatively.

IRENA announced today it would continue to back the Pacific Islands in their RE goals and targets by helping with the development of national roadmaps and grid connectivity/stability issues. So on a comparative basis, you see how far in front we are at present. The PM is solidly behind our progress and his commitment is echoed around all the IRENA members, who continually point out that political will is absolutely vital in driving the transformation of power systems.

The PM met and spoke with a number of Pacific delegates, including the Deputy Prime Minister of Tuvalu. Tomorrow, the PM will be engaged in a two-session Ministerial Roundtable followed by the final plenary session.

On the second and final day of the 4th Session of the Assembly of IRENA, Saturday 18 January, the Prime Minister participated in a two-part Ministerial session, which discussed the organisation's goal to drive a doubling of the world's renewable energy by 2030 to 36%, and boosting investment in RE for economic growth. The talks among the policy-makers generated a lot of interest the PM said, and helped reinforce much of what the Cook Islands has already achieved at the national level. In the afternoon, the PM held bilateral talks

with NZ Foreign Minister Murray McCully, who had arrived from Dubai for the Blue Economy Summit, opening on Monday. The PM's discussions with the Minister covered a range of issues both national and regional, including the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Forum with NZ, which is to be hosted in the Cook Islands. The PM continues his assignment in Abu Dhabi tomorrow at the Blue Economy Summit.

The Blue Economy Summit Abu Dhabi 19-20 January)

Today, Sunday 19 January, was another long and tiring business day in Abu Dhabi.

The PM attended the Blue Economy Summit at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, which was opened by Minister of State, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber. The President of the Seychelles and the President of the UN General Assembly were other key speakers. The PM also viewed some of the amazing renewable energy exhibits and had informal talks with IRENA. Late in the afternoon, the PM was asked to co-chair a session between IRENA and attending SIDS reps. He sat with Director General of IRENA Adnan Z Amin, and the Prime Minister of Tonga.



Te Mato Vai: A testament fostering corruption in the Cook Islands

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

When it was announced with a loud bang by the Prime Minister during the Pacific Forum held here in Rarotonga in 2011, I as Leader of the Opposition yelled very loudly that this Government has handcuffed us in iron clad debts for many generations to come. That was because the total cost of Te Mato Vai exceeds \$60 million and by far is the largest amount of money this country has expended on a single project. It brought back memories of the Vaimaanga Hotel project, which plagued Cook Islanders for decades until the Democratic Party Government and its negotiators managed to persuade the Italian company contracted to build the hotel and the Italian Government to have our debt of over \$40 million written off.

On paper the Te Mato Vai project is a sound idea and about time too. For years all of Rarotonga has complained about the supply and availability of water particularly after long dry spells. The Democratic Party actually began this project when both former Prime Ministers Terepai Maoate and Jim Marurai were steering the helm of the country. The consultants were called in from overseas, people from the Manukau and Auckland Councils were invited to give us options. Funding arrangements were proposed to ADB and to the Government of the Republic of China. It was all good but for the fear of assuming a massive debt for the Ring Main project, a project where everything is done all at once. So you dig the roads once and lay everything down, water pipes, electric and telephone cables etc. The more conservative people like me wanted a phase by phase project to improve water. We wanted that because of the lessons learned from previous major projects that have failed dismally. I believe the Te Mato Vai will be a dismal failure.

I note that the Government has now embarked on a round of public meetings led by the

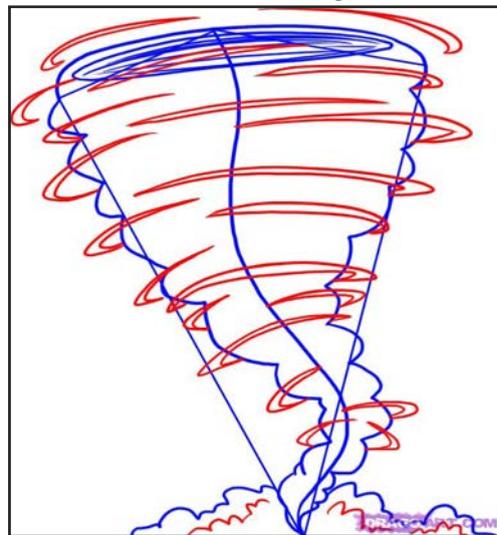
Minister of Infrastructure (Deputy Prime Minister) Teariki Heather. I understand the first meeting was held in his own village of Arorangi was a public relations exercise short on facts but rich on hype and rhetoric. Landowners that attended were none the wiser but were told of what Teariki Heather would do. You see that worries me with this man's continuing flaunting of his Ministerial authority and of course the interests of his company T&M Heather. He continues not to see his conflict of interest and his creation of the public perception that he is setting the scene for his own company to benefit and therefore for him personally to make a killing from the money flowing in. Here's how it works and it is a pattern that has now become obvious. Bill Dougherty and his company tenders and wins it since it is the biggest construction company here in the Cook Islands. He sub-contracts T&M Heather for the machinery, and most of the sub-contracts. Thus Teariki Heather benefits handsomely.

That is one example of insider trading and of the insidious allegations that can be leveled at the DPM and indeed at several others. Isn't it amazing that we have a project that never had a blueprint plan put to the Business and Trade Investment Board for approval, at least for scrutiny? But the Secretary of Finance had already earmarked certain employees for the project. Such are the concerns of the public which were echoed by the Chamber of Commerce including the non-provision of actual figures detailing the costs and breakdowns so we will all understand what debts are we paying. Unfortunately the Te Mato Vai project creates more uncertainty and therefore promotes suspicion and the possible propensity for corruption, if not already. I've said it before that this Government no longer works according to the rules and will do what they can to bring them back onto the positive side of the ledger.



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PM Puna's talks on the law is hypocritical lip service

The Prime Minister Henry Puna knows no bounds when he talks about the importance of obeying the law. Insisting the Grey Power members must comply with the law because no one is above it including himself is hypocritical because while he preaches the law he certainly doesn't practice it.

While lawyer Puna emotionally blackmails the persecuted pensioners into submission to the pay up demands of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management's (MFEM) undertaking tag team of Andrew Haigh and his boss Richard Neves, he himself refuses to lead by example.

It's with evangelical zeal that Puna preaches he has no say concerning the law, therefore bound by and to it without reservation, the application of his own confession is a contradiction, self incriminating and inconsistent, demonstrating weak moral leadership that will filter through the ranks to the lowest level. Rather than walk the high moral ground matching his confession the arrogance of the Prime Minister reflects an attitude he alone stands above it.

Puna must be seen for what he is, a man constantly caught with his pants down, deluded with cognitive distortions that reserves law bending and breaking as a his privileged right of personal political self preservation. Given the benefit of the doubt for so long the finger pointing Puna has failed to demonstrate leadership qualities that captures and woos the hearts and minds of the people. Henry Puna's political shelf life has expired and if the Cook Islands Party wants to have a future they need to find a new leader sooner than later.

The PM's latest indiscretion is his failure by choice to adhere to the Te Aponga Uira O Tumu-Te-Varovaro Act 1991. In the selection of the Board of



Directors of this vital utility of the economy in Part 1 section 4(2) *The Board shall consist of a Chairman and two Directors, appointed by the Minister and one ex-officio Director. The Chairman shall be and eminent person of proven administrative capabilities with adequate experience of managing a large public enterprise. One of the Directors shall have experience of banking, including international banking, in a senior position. One of the Directors shall be an Electrical Engineer, preferably with experience of power house management. The Secretary, Ministry of Energy, shall be ex-officio Director of the Authority.*

TAU comes under the Ministry of Energy whose Minister is the PM Henry Puna who appoints the Board of Directors. Fact one, the newly appointed Chairman who lives in the Murienua constituency is a former public servant without the business

Prime Minister Henry Puna background required to be the Chairman. Fact two, there is no one on the Board who has banking experience at any level. Fact three, there is no Engineer with power house management experience.

TAU is a multi-million dollar commercial enterprise that is expected to make a profit and return a dividend to government. This is not a criticism of the current Directors except Steve Anderson who is alleged to have commercial conflicts of interest, but the law is the law Puna keeps reiterating. TAU Board appointments? Not worth mentioning? When is a law ignorable? Does it really matter? So why is there a specific appointment criteria in the Act?

In this instance the law wasn't bent but broken and if the Prime Minister has any integrity and is willing to demonstrate his obedience to the law like he demands of others he ought to dissolve the TAU Board

and appoint one according to the law of the Act. Otherwise Prime Minister Puna keep the hypocritical double talk and go and play golf.

Unlike Rarotonga, Aitutaki who are not bound by a criteria law has as their Power Authority Board Chairman businessman and a former engineer Alan Mills. Second Director is BCI Manager Mii Makimare plus Director Paul Henry an electrician with renewable energy expertise. Obviously no political appointments but a team intelligently recruited by the Aitutaki Island Administration to ensure economic self sustainability.

The position of Prime Minister has become devalued and denigrated by the person Henry Puna. Until he demonstrates a respect for the law by obedience to it, he will continue to tarnish the position and mana of PM and he will be despised.

George Pitt

Aitutaki Clamps down on poachers

Some passengers leaving Aitutaki were unhappy to have their luggage searched for products prohibited to leave the Island. (Aitutaki/Manuae Fisheries By-Law)The Aitutaki Marine Resources (AMR) staff has been vigilant and firm in their baggage checks with no favours granted.

Adamant there will be no spread of the Asian fruit fly from Aitutaki, a source said the main offenders were seasonal visitors who on holiday who were trying to flaunt the rules. "Residents of Aitutaki take the preservation of some of the sea food very seriously as well as the damage the fruit fly can spread." They said "The inspectors had a difficult task but were diligent in their duties." Some of the locals had also tipped off the inspectors as to which passengers had prohibited items concealed and undeclared in their suit cases."

AMR's Senior Fisheries Officer Richard Story said he was

concerned at the increase in paua being taken off the island and has formally requested the Aitutaki Island Administration to come up with a policy to deter the poaching especially of paua. Story said it would be helpful if a harvesting permit is issued the harvest location be specified." Existing warnings and the consequences are not deterring the poachers," stated Story who also requested other Ministries to assist as during the holiday season as some passengers may get over looked.

"We may lack the resources like x-ray machines but we are doing our best and getting results," said Story.

Over four days of inspection at the airport, 6k of passion fruit, 10kg of pawpaw, 4kg pineapple, ariri and ungakoa were confiscated from passengers. "It only takes one prohibited fruit to slip through the net to be a serious threat to another island" said Story.

"In some ways you can't blame



Richard Story

the visitors who simply are over taken by the delicacies we have on Aitutaki the want to take some to share with others or just want to keep eating the fruit," said Story. "But if anyone wants

to taste our fruits and abundant beautiful sea foods and there are many then they need to come to Aitutaki for a visit of their own, they are most welcome."

- George Pitt

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Be wary of the Ghost of Albert Henry

Taxing the elderly for the income they receive from an "old age pension" cuts right to the soul of the Cook Islands Party.

Treating our senior citizens like this goes "right against the grain" of what the "original" Cook Islands Party stood for when it was formed 49 years 7 months ago.

Government can tax any other income the elderly may receive.

But an old age pension is sacrosanct. It should never be taxed.

The introduction of a "Universal Old Age Pension" was one of Albert Henry's "Pet Policies" when he formed the Cook Islands Party in June 1964.

Following the 1965 General Election leading up to Self-Government, Albert Henry became the Premier of the Cook Islands and therefore the leader of the Cook Islands Government. He and that Government then introduced the Cook Islands Old Age Pension in 1966 as a way to help the elderly people who were no longer able to provide for themselves.

The introduction of the Cook Islands "Old Age Pension Scheme" was something my grandfather was extremely proud of. And because of that ... I am extremely proud of him.

For nearly 49 years, the elderly of the Cook Islands believed their "Old Age Pension", be it "local" or from New Zealand, would be tax-free. And that indeed was the case.

Whether that pension was "local" or from New Zealand, the concept/philosophy is still the same. That money is to help the elderly in their twilight years to live a life of dignity, self-respect, above destitution and without undue hardship or suffering – tax-free.

Now ... after 49 years, the pensioners have been told there is a law in place which says that the elderly must pay tax on their old age pension.

Minister Teina Bishop has challenged the enforcement of this law. I think he has got a case.

But I challenge this apparent law from a moral point of view.

This is because to tax the pensions of the elderly is not what the Cook Islands Party is all about. It never was. It never should be.

It grieves me deeply to see a C.I.P. Government treat our elderly people this way. It hurts my "political heart" to see the Cook Islands Party of today "kick the old people in the guts" by supporting both the Financial Secretary and the Head of the Inland Revenue and their efforts to tax the pensions being paid out to the elderly.



The Financial Secretary says "that the law is on his side".

Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance have said ..."Well then, enforce it".

Albert Henry is rolling in his grave.

If the Financial Secretary is correct and does have the law on his side with the support of both the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, then this C.I.P. Government has two options. Either change the law, or the "Ghost of Albert Henry" will bring about a change to the leadership of the Cook Islands Party in the near future.

About that I have no doubt.

The "Ghost of Albert Henry" is still hanging around the Cook Islands Party today. And I don't think it is very impressed.

If the Financial Secretary is wrong and does not have the law on his side, then this C.I.P. Government has got to stand up in defense of the pensioners and show some "moral back-bone" by putting the Financial Secretary and the Head of Inland Revenue in their places.

Taxing the pensions of the elderly was never part of Cook Islands Party philosophy. It was never part of their agenda. It is something Albert and the "Foundation Father's of this party would ever do. They would never support it.

I therefore wonder out loud if the present C.I.P. Government has got the "political intestinal fortitude" (guts) to do the right thing and permanently lift or remove any notion of taxing the pensions of the elderly once and for all.

To do so would be the "Party Way".

In conclusion : It is true that the Lord does move in mysterious ways.

And at this point in time ...

I think the Lord is on the side of Albert Henry.

By Howard Henry

Pied piper Henry Puna leading CIP into oblivion

Cook Islands Party founder Sir Albert Henry had a one policy Party, which was the care of the elderly by means of a pension. Teariki Simiona a foundation member of the CIP remembers the Albert of old who established the CIP with this policy as a corner stone.

Simiona remembers the passion and the commitment the foundation members had for the CIP constitution and its core values. "Papa Albert was a people's person, he never turned anyone away and always tried to find a way to resolve problems the people had," said Simiona. "People came before anything else."

Simiona claimed the pension was never intended to be taxed like the Income Tax Act has been amended to do so. Money grabbing by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management are doing has eroded the strength of the CIP claims Simiona.

It seems Simiona's views are also compatible with many other CIP members who want to see the Party return to its roots. Some are advocating a full CIP Conference as early as April to resolve the internal hemorrhaging of the Party.

There is a concern Puna has lost touch with the rank and file and has failed to exert leadership in that the bureaucrats appear to have free reign in dictating the policies, processes and outcomes of the government. MFEM with their fingers in all the pies are in control of the direction of the Cook Islands with the PM repeatedly saying "I have no say in the matter."

The bureaucrats have their place in governance and it certainly not above the lawmaking Politicians, but by defaulting permission they have become the head and Puna's team the tail.

For someone who was the President of the CIP for so long Henry Puna has made no attempt to steer his government in a direction parallel and in compatible with the CIP constitution. In fact has administered in contradiction and opposite to the very core values of the Party thus devaluing nearly fifty years of successful branding.

- George Pitt



Woman of the Month



Congratulations to Mrs Rupe Piakura (nee Cummings)

By Norma Ngatamariki

Woman of the Month for January is Rupe Piakura (nee Cummings). She is known among the girls in the village of Ngatangia as Aunty Ruby or Mama Rupe. Rupe's parents named her after her father's feeding mother, a Mangaian maiden who played an influential role in his life.

Rupe comes from a Rarotongan and Mangaian ancestry, of which she is very proud of. Her father is Manu Aereau Cummings, who is of Mangaian descent and arrived to Rarotonga in search of opportunities. While in Rarotonga, he met Rupe's mother, Ngapoko Josephine Teakapeka who has a mixture of Rarotongan and Tahitian blood. They married and settled in the village of Muri, Ngatangia, where Rupe and her siblings grew up. She had six siblings, with three who are still alive to this day – two sisters and one brother. Rupe is the fourth child and was born on the 18th of January 1946.

Rupe considers herself to be a treasurer of the important things in life, so she does appreciate what she has been blessed with. She has a variety of hobbies and interests, which range from sports, cooking, travelling, reading as well as spending time with family.

Rupe's education began at home until she was six years old. She attended Ngatangia Primary School starting at Grade 1 in 1952. At fifteen years of age, she attended Tereora College in 1961 for two years. In 1963, Rupe was accepted into the Cook Islands Teachers Training College for three years. Immediately after she completed her course, she taught

at Titikaveka Primary School, which was her first teaching job in 1966. In 1967, she was assigned to teach at the Ngatangia Primary School until she resigned in 1974 to be with her children.

Rupe is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She attends the Takitumu branch and has held various positions in the Branch auxiliary. She has served under a number of branch leaders, as well as the Presidency for the Relief Society, Young Women, Youth and Primary auxiliary. As always, a woman of position must accept the responsibilities that come with it such as organizing teachers and lessons, enrichment and activity programs, visiting teachers and service projects, family welfare in the homes as well as to assist and support district programs. Rupe is active in the education of young women, youth and children, as they have certain standards in order to prepare them for their journey in life.

Religion has been a very dominant part of her life, as her parents were pioneers – one of the first people to accept the Mormon faith. Along with her siblings and children, Rupe remains true to her faith and values.

Sports has played a major role in Rupe's life, and as a child, she always took the opportunity to play any and every sport. Her passion for sport has continued to be a major drive, even today.

Her achievements include breaking the high jump and long jump record in the 1960 Kumete Sports. She also received two gold medals during the 1965 Constitution Celebrations. She

was also dubbed the Woman's Athletics Champion at the training college for three years in a row.

Netball is also a great love for Rupe, as she began playing the popular sport at the age of thirteen. She has held many prominent roles in the Club form many years. In 1978 – 1979, the Ngatangia/Matavera Club made history by winning three cups. She also used to coach and train netball teams. Rupe has found her experience in netball very rewarding.

Another joy in Rupe's life was her affiliation with the Muri/Turangi Tennis Club, which is now known as the Ngatangia/Matavera Club. Basketball and volleyball are sports she enjoys socially and they also keep her in shape. Rupe is currently involved in the Turangi Cricket Club and has been for the past four years. She is proud to be the oldest player on the island with a high running rate of twenty plus scored in a game with a high of sixty nine runs. Playing cricket has sharpened her skills and challenges her physical capabilities.

Apart from sports, Children's Welfare takes precedent and is a priority for Rupe. She was a secretary in the Ngatangia Child Welfare Association in the late 1970's and was awarded as a long service member in the 80's. As the Vice President of the Turangi Child Welfare Clinic, initiatives were conducted to assist mothers with raising funds in order to purchase necessities for their children. The organisation also introduced home gardens for self-reliance, with the help of Agriculture's DSIR in Totokoitu. They also raised



funds to build the Turangi Clinic, with assistance by the Ministry of Education, which eventually housed the Ngatangia Pre-School. Rupe became the Secretary of the Turangi, Avana and Muri Child Welfare. During those days, a lot of mothers were involved in the organisation and it flourished for a while.

In 1972, she had the prestigious honour to shake hands with Duke of Kent, who is the cousin of the Queen.

In February 1981, she shook hands with the Prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints President Spencer w Kimball, who was the first to visit the Cook Islands.

In 2000, Rupe was given the opportunity to be the Bearer of the Olympic Torch, which was also a first event for the Cook Islands.

The important things that matter to Rupe are her faith, her family and genealogy work in that order.

2014 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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Courts can't take Cooks trusts to court

Global pioneer in offshore asset protection

By Davendra Sharma
Islands Business
January 2014

New reports emerged in Washington last month with claims that Cook Islands is hiding millions possibly billions in monies secretly moved there by foreign trusts. A prominent United States financial investment lawyer was quoted by the respected New York Times suggesting that real estate developers, healthcare providers, accountants, architects to corporate directors have vested interests in Rarotonga.

"You can have your cake and eat it too," said Howard Rosen, a lawyer who claims to have set up the Cooks trusts for more than 20 years. Anyone with more than US\$1 million in assets, his firm promotes, should consider the Cooks trusts for self-preservation. The New York Times claimed the Cooks is a global pioneer in offshore asset protection trusts, with laws enacted to conceal overseas investors' assets from legal claims stemming from their home countries. While the Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands and Switzerland claim limelight when international regulators search for money laundering and tax evasion schemes, the Cook Islands seem to dodge investigators. "The Cook Islands offers a different form of secrecy," noted the New York Times. "The long arm of the US law does not reach there. The Cooks generally disregard foreign court orders, making it easier to keep assets from creditors, or anyone else." It is the country's biggest selling point being used by international investment lawyers to capture a broad swath of affluent Americans and Europeans. The New York Times claimed that Americans are the biggest customers of the Cooks

scheme, promoted as 'a prime choice' on the government's website. As of last month, there were 2619 trusts under the Cooks Financial Supervisory Commission, offering secrecy on top of legal cover for their clients. Like most similar schemes elsewhere in the world, the Cooks authority does not divulge the value of assets or its owners. But documents obtained by the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) showed that the Cooks held 700 such trusts for Americans—notably from the rich in Palm Beach, Florida, New York and Hollywood. Such findings by ICIJ showed that trust owners include those convicted of Medicaid fraud, the infamous Ponzi schemes and bilking employee pension funds. One such note from the investigation showed that a trust held by Denise Rich, former wife of the disgraced trader Marc Rich, who was pardoned on the last day of the Clinton presidency. Her trust entity contained more than US\$100 million in assets such as her yacht. The Cooks trusts facility provides both secrecy

and security and consequently makes it unmatched by world standards. "Asset protection is to provide a layer of insurance for something that cannot be insured – the unforeseeable," declared Jennifer Davis, chief executive of the Cook Islands Financial Services Development Authority in an article, published by the Australian Financial Review last month. Another revelation that surfaced in the international media is that of R. Allen Stanford, who is serving a 110-year term for masterminding a US\$7 billion Ponzi scheme, held in the Cook Islands under a code-name, "Baby Mama Trust". In an interview with ISLANDS BUSINESS last August, Cooks' Finance Minister Mark Brown denied Rarotonga was being used as a tax haven. "The world is now moving towards issues of tax avoidance, tax evasion and any regulatory compliance measures that we need to undertake," he said. But for international investors seeking shelter for their funds, the Cooks offers as much attraction as possibly Vanuatu—which has been known to be a pure tax

haven since it has no discreet taxation of any kind either on its citizens or resident expatriates. "Studies show the impact of offshore financial centres on PICs' growth and development is insignificant. The funds do not enter the domestic banking system," said Dr T K Jayaram, a Professor at the Fiji National University's School of Economics, Banking and Finance in a paper last month. Such multi-million dollar funds are not used for any government or banking investment purposes. The offshore financial centres customarily transfer funds through such Asian investment hotspots as Singapore and Hong Kong into trusts held in the islands. The United States chose to "name and shame" a number of OFC (Offshore Financial Centres) and it included Niue, Nauru, Marshall Islands as well as the Cooks and Vanuatu. Last year, the Financial Secrecy Index revealed that Luxembourg, Hong Kong, Cayman Islands and Singapore are top-ranked countries which "fare well in terms of strict supervision and regulation," noted Jayaram.

December tourist numbers highest on record

Data released by the Statistics Office on Thursday 16 January showed that visitor arrivals for both November and December 2013 were the highest arrivals for a November and December since records began in 1993.

Visitor arrivals in December 2013 grew 0.6 percent compared to December 2012 to be 10,108. The small rise was driven by an 11.1 per cent increase in Australian arrivals offsetting a 3.8 per cent reduction in New Zealand arrivals.

For the year, 2013 visitor

arrivals fell 0.9 percent compared to 2012. This compares to 8.2 per cent growth in 2012 and 8.5 per cent in 2011.

"Despite only increasing 0.6 percent compared to December 2012, this is still impressive performance given the massive growth in 2012." Said MFEM Economic Advisor James Webb. "While growth in 2013 was less than in 2012, the tourism industry has managed to consolidate the almost double digit growth from the New Zealand and Australian markets in 2012, to the industry's credit.

It is now clear that 'peak season' is extending towards the end of the year, with every month from June to December receiving over 10,000 visitors a month – 13,800 visitors assumed to be the most that the Cook Islands can accommodate a month.

Tourism will remain the largest industry, and biggest export earner, for the Cook Islands for some time yet, but I think it is probably safe to assume that the days of 8-9 per cent growth in visitor arrivals are probably behind us, at least for the next year or so."

4th Regional Training Workshop on “Environmental Perspectives of Deep Sea Mineral Activities”

The workshop for Pacific ACP States was organized by SPC-SPREP and held on 9-13 December 2013 at Tanoa International Hotel at Nadi, Fiji.

COOK ISLANDS DSM AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental issues have always been a key concern for the Cook Islands as it seeks to responsibly develop the economic potential of its own seabed minerals resource in its EEZ, being an estimated assessment of 10 billion tonnes of polymetallic Manganese Nodules.

Since its launch, the Cook Islands have been a key founding nation member of the DSM Project.

This DSM workshop met the DSM project goal to develop and enhance the knowledge of Pacific ACP States multi-stakeholders, who are representing various interests on issues relating to deep sea minerals.

Objectives of this DSM Workshop

1. To build on the outcomes of the last two Deep Sea Minerals environment workshops.

2. To assess site and national perspectives, particularly related to national responsibilities within the EIA process, such as evaluating the EIA, establishing the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), monitoring and enforcement of the EMP.

3. To assess regional issues, particularly any policy needs.

4. To raise awareness and provide a forum for discussion amongst environment professionals of the emerging Deep Sea Mineral industry, potential issues from an environment sector perspective.

5. To assist countries to identify capacity gaps for implementing all steps of the EIA process at national and regional scales and proposing measures to fill these gaps.

The Cook Islands were represented at this regional DSM training workshop by Liz Koteka (CIMP/OPM), Teherii Koteka (Debate winner), Vavia Tangatataia (NES), Teina

MacKenzie (TIS) and Paul Lynch and Alex Herman (SBMA). The DSM Project funded costs of all our participants.

This was the 4th DSM workshop and again it was coordinated and operated to a very high standard. The Program (attached) initially covered preliminary DSM background information and then moved into more detail the particular topic of environmental issues and possible impacts related to DSM activities. Many high profile and respected scientific and industry experts gave insightful presentations to the participants at the workshop.

There are no actual DSM mining activities actually occurring yet. And so it is important for Pacific ACP States multi-stakeholders, like potential contractors, industry and stakeholders, to address potential environmental concerns now before any DSM mining activity actually takes place. This is a wise approach and will allow for steps to be taken in line with the “precautionary approach” under the 1992 Rio declaration *Principle 15*

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

A major outcome of the workshop was to allow open and frank, face to face discussion and exchange between representatives from various PIC government minerals agencies, industry representatives, NGOs and environmental officials and stakeholders. This permitted some unhelpful and recurring misconceptions and misinformation problems to be addressed.

The presence of scientists Professor Cindy Van Dover and Dr Malcolm Clark who are renowned for their work on Seafloor Massive Sulphides and Manganese Nodules respectively, provided a great learning experience for the participants.

At the end of the workshop, it was agreed by the participants that there needed to be a coordinated regional effort towards the environmental management of DSM activities, and not just at the national level. This is particularly when considering the potential for transboundary and cumulative effects.

Furthermore such regional efforts will ensure a minimum level of environmental standards for DSM throughout the Pacific.

OUTCOME- COOK ISLANDS

For the Cook Islands, a major outcome was to permit the continued development and facilitation of a national, collaborative approach to relevant DSM environmental issues, between various national entities, which is an essential step for the preparation for potential seabed minerals activities in the Cook Islands.

Under the Cook Islands DSM regime, a “title shall not be granted under this Act (SBM Act) unless and until a project permit required under the Environment Act in respect of the seabed minerals activity proposed to be carried out under the title has been issued”.

So NES processes will need to be clearly understood and implemented to be able to determine the environmental conditions for any proposed DSM activity in the Cook Islands. During the workshop program, Vavia Tangatataia (NES) gave an excellent Cook Islands presentation on our existing EIA process which can be adapted for DSM. It was considered by NES that they already have a suitable EIA

process being implemented, but that would need to be modified for DSM activities.

NES identified areas of concern or gaps in terms of environmental management planning for DSM activities. These areas of concern were shared by other Pacific countries, and focused broadly on two themes: lack of resources, and lack of capacity. The Cook Islands and other Pacific countries expressed the need to address these issues before any DSM activities can begin, which was taken into consideration by the DSM Project.

SBMA and NES were able to agree on a coordinated approach to the development of the required draft Environment Regulations for DSM under the Environment Act, currently being reviewed. SBMA and NESs will work together to access external funding to assist to develop the required national frameworks and capacity.

Hannah Lily, Legal Advisor from the DSM project, has assisted with providing the draft Regulations which NES can adapt and incorporate into the future regulatory framework for DSM under the Environment Act.

EIA TEMPLATE

The workshop also gave participants a draft template EIA form for consideration. The intention of the EIA template is to encompass the full range and life cycle of operations/activities, and is project specific.

Furthermore, it was discussed that an Environmental Mining Management System (EMMS), ideally nested within a regional strategic environmental assessment (SEA), should address the following 3 components:

1. Environment Risk Assessment (ERA)
2. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)
3. Environment Management Plan (EMP)

A History of Infrastructure Cook Islands - Te Tango Angaanga o Te Kuki Airani

By Sally Hosking

From the 24th of January 2014, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning will be known as 'Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) – Te Tango Angaanga o te Kuki Airani.' The name was proposed by current DPM and Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Teariki Heather – and endorsed by Cabinet in December 2013.

The building that currently houses the ICI office was designed and built by Hugh McCrone Connal between 1890-1950. Connal also designed and constructed a number of landmarks such as Beachcomber, Banana Court, the old MFEM building, and the Takuvaine Bridge. Like these milestones, the ICI building was made primarily of limestone.

1890 – Hugh McCrone Connal – Chief Surveyor and Engineer under NZ Colonial Administration.

Connal conducted the first survey of Rarotonga in 1899. The report still remains at the Justice Department. According to Connal's diary (which is in the possession of his grandson, Pui Henry), the survey revealed that all land was owned by a family, the only thing he needed to do was peg the sections. Areas beyond the highwater mark, and the bottom of the hills were considered "uninvestigated land," although they still belonged to a family. The lagoons were given to the Crown – who was under the British Rule – to look after. At the time, Crown's main responsibility was to "look after the water" – not to control the contents of the lagoon.

1950 – Wynton Ryan, Superintendent of Public Works.

After serving as a Major in the Second World War, Ryan was offered the position of Superintendent of Public Works. During his time in office, Ryan recognized the need for harbors and airports. He resumed contact

with friends in the New Zealand Army and organized the delivery of explosives to the Cook Islands. 600 explosives - each weighing approximately 300pounds - were taken to Mangaia by the American Warship, Black Prince and used to blast open space for a harbor. Sometime later, 2000 landmines were discovered, and used to clear land for an airport.

1962 – Bruce Henderson.

During the 1960's, dust spread during the process of picking, transporting and exporting local produce was causing severe health problems like lung disease. In an effort to purge the epidemic, a road sealing programme headed by New Zealand Surveyor, Alfred Bailey, was initiated. Shortly thereafter, the New Zealand Government appointed Engineer Bruce Henderson to conduct the sealing. Sadly, an illness forced him to return to New Zealand at the end of 1962. The programme did not commence until 1963 after government borrowed 10,000£ from local entrepreneur Dick Browne. Funds were used to seal 1 mile road.

1967-1971 – Tupui Ariki Henry was appointed Minister of Public Works, Tourism, Justice and Survey, Housing Authority, and Local Government.

1973-1974 - Public Works became 'Ministry of Supportive Services.' Functions included Public Works, Transport, Government Stores, EPS, and Printer-Sundry.

There were four other Ministries during those years; Economic Development, Finance, Social Services, and Marine. There was also one Premier Department. Hugh Henry was then the Secretary for PWD.

1974 – Water mill installed on Mauke. The Village Authority loaned \$200 to each household, which enabled them to install pipes within their homes that connected to the main water

supply.

1975 – Name changed to 'Public Works Department.' Functions included Public Works, Transport, Government Stores, EPS, and Printer-Sundry.

1979 – George Cowan, Secretary of Works.

In 1979, no divisions existed within the Ministry. Management would have been difficult given that the Ministry employed close to 400 people. As Secretary of Public Works, Cowan implemented three divisions; Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Administration. He then appointed three Deputy Secretary's to head each department.

1980 - The need for trained mechanics and a technical team.

In 1980, Cowan saw the need to establish an apprenticeship for mechanics. He and Tangata Tuare – Head of the Administration Department at the time - visited the Director of UNDB and voiced the need for qualified mechanics, architects, surveyors, and civil engineers. After much negotiation they were granted four qualified mechanics, but one more was needed to manage the compound. Cowan requested for a Head Mechanic through the New Zealand High Commissioner. Two weeks later, Paul Sharp was appointed. Since then, the Automotive Engineering School was established with the help of Tareu Uka. This programme enabled individuals to study mechanics for five years and then graduate with a qualification that was recognized in New Zealand.

1990-1991 – Building code and Building Regulations were established. These were initiated after a series of cyclones hit the Cook Islands, causing excessive damage to homes. At the time, it was compulsory that anyone wishing to build nominate a building supervisor.

1997 – Became 'Ministry of Works, Environment and Physical

Planning.' During that year, Mr. Keu Mataroa was appointed Acting HOM for MOWEPP, and tasked with restructuring the Ministry. It was a significant year, considering that a Cabinet Minute and Directive ordered that the Ministry be reduced to just 51 staff members. Since then, staff numbers have only increased by 17 making a total of 68 staff members with ICI today.

1998 – Became 'Ministry of Works, Energy and Physical Planning, and Youth.'

2000 – Became 'Ministry of Works' (MOW).

2008 – OMIA and MOW merged to form 'Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning' (MOIP)

24 January 2014 – Launch of new name and brand – 'Infrastructure Cook Islands – Te Tango Angaanga o Te Kuki Airani.'
Information courtesy of George Cowan and Pui Henry and ICI Research crew

PUBLIC NOTICE

PAPAAROA ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Papaaroa Adventist School accepts New Enrolments for students from Pre-School to Form 4 (ECE to Year 10) on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th January within the hours of 9am and 2pm. Enrolment forms are available from the school in Titikaveka. Classes start on Monday 27 January at 8am. "Education, For Now and Eternity"
Gregory Taikakara
Principal

BTIB aim to work smarter

By Norma Ngatamariki

On Tuesday 21st, the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) held their Annual Staff Retreat in Upper Tupapa. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer of BTIB, Terry Rangi, Chairman of BTIB, George Pitt and Honourable Minister Kiriau Turepu, who has recently taken on the profile of Business and Trade, as well as the BTIB.

Business Development Officer, Charlie Rani says that it has been a few years since the last retreat, so this has granted them with the opportunity to reflect on their past achievements, failures and making possible improvements where necessary.

"BTIB plays a significant part in the economy and supports the local business spectrum by looking at ways of increasing productivity and searching for a potential market."

"Our main goal is to make a positive difference in the way we approach our work," says Rangi. "We must have an optimistic outlook for the future." BTIB plans on doing this by generating



Charlie Rani, Kiriau Turepu, George Pitt and Terry Rangi

new ideas and initiatives by engaging with key stakeholders.

Chairman of BTIB, George Pitt says that the overall aim for BTIB is to work smarter and to promote a clearer understanding of the establishment's core functions. "We are a small unit, but it is still possible for us

to achieve our goals through determination and resilience."

Pitt anticipates that 2014 will be a year filled with challenges, but he is confident that his staff will overcome any obstacle.

BTIB is currently considering to re-claim land for development and to set up an international

trade office within China, as Pitt predicts that establishing a business relationship with the Chinese will most certainly have a positive impact on the Cook Island economy. Another goal that BTIB wishes to achieve is to encourage food security within the community.

The importance and value of education

By Charles Pitt

Fostino Ufamarata is from Rotuma, Fiji. He has been in the Cook Islands since 2006. A Catholic, he and his wife have three children and 10 grandchildren.

Fostino has had a lifelong interest in helping young people especially secondary school and tertiary students to achieve their potential by making them realize the importance and value of education.

While in Fiji, this former policeman wondered why so many year 12 and year 13 students were failing exams and dropping out of school and ending up in trouble with authorities.

His 14 year study into the problem made him realize the problem was that young people lacked proper information and guidance in the face of so many distractions.

He developed a counseling course and began visiting primary and secondary schools in Fiji to speak to students and

teachers.

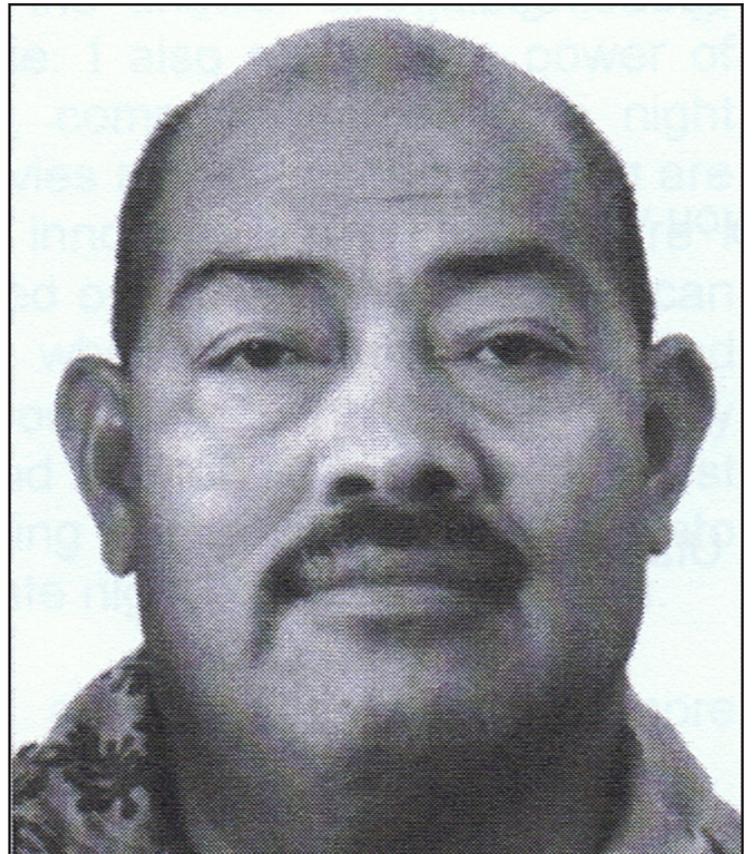
In Rarotonga, he has refined his counseling programme which is Christian based, and in April 2011 he produced a publication called "Honesty and Hard Work makes Miracles Happen." It is a Pastoral Guide in six stages, for Parents, Youth and Students.

Those who have assisted Fostino with his publication come from a variety of backgrounds including; teaching, law, the Church, medicine, government.

Fostino is keen to set up regular counseling sessions for anyone interested in learning about his programme. He is available to visit primary and secondary schools and is also available to speak to teachers and groups of young people considered at risk.

His goal is to establish a small institution to help students, school leavers, ex-convicts, drug addicts, young mothers and young families to encourage them to continue their education.

You may contact Fostino on Ph 78 801.



Fostino Ufamarata

Seminar on Island Economy for Developing Countries – November 7th to 14th 2013

In November last year, local artist and carver, Henry Tavioni Taputu along with fellow Cook Islander Shane Warren, attended the Seminar on Island Economy for developing States held in Hainan, China which was funded by China's Ministry of Commerce. He has filed this report.



Henry Tavioni (Second row on the right) at the Seminar in China last November.

The trip to China was life changing and very informative. Every day I was learning something new. Sometimes it was overwhelming, but in a good way. My impression of China was different from what I imagined it to be.

China is an expanding country that is developing constantly and has become the most prosperous country in the world second only to the United States of America. Developments are everywhere in infrastructure, hotels, office blocks, apartment blocks and shopping malls.

The trip was well organized by Hainan University and Ministry of Commerce of the Peoples Republic of China. The seminar on Island Economy for Developing Countries was educational and an eye opener. A lot of the seminar revolved around fine details, scientific data and infrastructure balance and harmony with the environment.

There are many things that I saw or learnt that would benefit our country, especially in Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Pearl Industry and lastly Investment in China.

1. Tourism. Nobody from

China really seems to know where the Cook Islands are. At the moment Chinese tourists are travelling to Japan, Europe, America, South East Asia, New Zealand and Australia. China is fast becoming the biggest tourist market and we could tap into this. A lot of Chinese tourists are millionaires or billionaires so we should seriously think of looking into the potential here that might benefit our tourism. China is becoming heavily polluted and they might want to come to our green, pristine islands. I feel our hotels, services, infrastructure and general amenities should be spruced up or upgraded to accommodate their needs. The wealthy Chinese love spending money but expect a high return of service. One possibility would be to get a Chinese airline to fly here once a week, maybe in conjunction with Air New Zealand.

2. Agriculture. Food is vital in this area. Therefore, we should grow more local produce in conjunction with imported food stuffs for our tourist friends. We could also consider expanding or improving on food products such as juices i.e.

pawpaw and pineapple as well as local delicacies and dishes. We could expand the production of our local produce to satisfy the internal needs and hopefully meet a year round supply. I have also learnt that the Chinese people like to have the option of Chinese cuisine when travelling as it provides a small comfort of home. When they travel abroad, i.e. America, they seek out Chinatown for this reason.

3. Fisheries. Like Agriculture, we need a constant supply of seafood, especially fish, for our tourists' tables.

4. Pearl Industry. The industry needs to be marketed intensively with 100% effort to reach buyers worldwide. I'm not sure how big our pearl industry is, but there is a demand. I had some interest from seminar colleagues. In particular, one from Sri Lanka, which I have put Mr, Temu Okotai in contact with. I'm also hoping to contact other pearl farmers. I will include an email address at the end of my report.

5. Investment in China. I feel some kind of reciprocal investment or cultural exchange, i.e. Culture groups, tapping into Chinese Hotel entertainment

areas, especially Sanya City in Hainan Province which is a tourist mecca in China. Another product we can invest in is the electric motorbikes from China for our tourism rental sector. The prices of these motorbikes range from \$500 to \$2000NZD. The benefits I can see are that they are environmentally friendly and we won't have to import the petrol to run them.

In closing, if we decide to accommodate the Chinese tourist, we should consider upgrading our services in hotels, bus, taxi services, restaurants and local food outlets. Lastly, the Chinese tourist seem to like theme parks i.e. such as Highland Paradise Cultural Centre, Te Vara Nui and even Raro Safari Tours. In China, they set up they set up the theme parks with the show first and then ending with the sale of goods/crafts that are relevant to each show. This system in China seems to work just as well here.

I would like to thank the Government and BTIB for the opportunity to learn about China and their Seminar on Island Economy for Developing Countries.- Henry Tavioni Taputu

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

Competition attracts 140 entries

The Cook Islands Marine Park naming competition closed last Friday afternoon with 140 entries. All entries were a mixture of names in Cook Islands Maori and English. In the next week or so, the Prime Minister will have chosen the winning name - in consultation with his cabinet colleagues and the President of the House of Ariki. The designer of the winning name will receive \$250, and the winning name together with the logo will be used extensively on all products associated with the Marine Park.

Nursing school opens Feb 3

The new Rarotonga Nursing School will officially open on February the 3rd for the next 3 years. The new school of nursing is a three year Level 6 diploma programme in nursing and will hopefully see the first graduates come out with a Bachelors degree completion for registered nurses. Principal Mary McMena was working at Auckland Uni Tech before coming to Rarotonga to take up the new role and has worked across the Pacific in the health practice area and nursing education, including Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. The school of nursing is a joint programme between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and aims to develop ongoing education for interested persons who would like to take up nursing. A number of applications have been received by the new school but it is understood that they want more to apply; Principal Mary McMena says they will start interviewing applicants this week through to next week.

Mangaia to host Climate Change team

The Climate Change division based at the OPM's will be taking a team of five to the Island of Mangaia this Monday the 27th of Jan till Friday the 31st of January. While there the team looks to achieve a number of objectives, starting with training for the 60 plus on tablets in order to connect our elderly to the rest of the population through information sharing and being updated on climate activities. A short documentary will also be produced on a series of interviews with the elderly throughout the Pa Enua highlighting their personal experiences relating to changes in the environment. A detailed

questionnaire will also be distributed to the people of Mangaia in order to extract information such as indicators of climate change. A report will then be put together once the projects are complete, and if findings are significant they will then be published in a peer review by the Climate Change division. The following activities will also commence in Mitiaro the following week and throughout the other Pa Enua's during the up and coming months.

CISNOC President in Malaysia

President for CISNOC Hugh Graham is currently in Malaysia attending the Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly. The event will cover 2 days and Hugh is due back next week and will provide an update on the event.

Athletics team to Glasgow finalised

The Cook Islands athletics team to attend the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games has been finalized: the participants are, Tereapii Tapoki, Patricia Taea and Alex Beddoes. Luisa Peters has also been finalized as Cook Islands representative for weightlifting. The Cook Islands Rugby team and Cook Islands Bowling team is yet to be finalized and will be announced at the end of this month. Chef De Mission Robert Graham will leave this weekend for Glasgow to attend a Chef De Mission Seminar, which will involve partaking in tours around the village, accommodation and sports venues. While there, Robert will have the opportunity to meet with the sports coordinator of the Commonwealth Games to discuss and organize accommodation, catering and transportation for team Cook Islands. Upon his return, Robert will hold a National Federation meeting to update the team on their stay at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

More rain expected

The heavy rainfall which started on Sunday was recorded at 14mm from midnight Sunday to midnight Monday. There was a maximum hourly rate of 7.6mm from 10 to 11pm on Monday night. The downfall early Tuesday morning as of 2am was recorded at 14.1mm. In the last 24 hours from 8am Monday morning to 8am Tuesday morning, total amount of rainfall was recorded at 35.6mm. Arona Ngari of the Mets Service says we are to expect more showers within the next few days.

Kia orana Chinese workers



The buildings being erected on the site of the old Kia Orana Foods factory to house the Chinese workers coming for the Te Mato Vai Project.

School is almost upon us!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Yes, you've read the title. The whole nations starts school next week Monday, and believe me, I am not looking forward to it. I haven't even started to enjoy my holiday because I'm always at work! But hey, I love getting paid, so I guess I shouldn't complain too much. But school! That's an even harder job and you don't get paid for going to school. Hopeless sigh. Oh well, it's my last year at Tereora College, so I might as well suck it up and make it count.



I remember when I first started at Tereora. We (my awesome friends and I) were fresh from Avarua Primary School and honestly, education was the last thing on our minds. We were still in that katukanga phase, I guess, and we really never got round to thinking seriously until we finished Year 10. But we most certainly made some great memories. Like when my class got into major trouble for "causing mischief" at the Lagoon Day in 2010. It was so bad that we were almost banned from attending future Lagoon Days. Those were some good times.

I can't really recall much about Year 10. Nothing stood out for me during that particular year. Except the part where we get to egg people on their birthdays and embarrass them. Nobody would forget that, especially the people who got egged (they wouldn't forget the smell either). Yeah, egging people was our thing. People who got egged were receiving special treatment, I reckon. Gosh, if I could travel back to those days for a visit, I would. When I look back on it, we were still acting like young fools, even though the teachers were saying that we're "on our way to adulthood". You're only young

once, so make the most of it. I reckon I started behaving maturely in Year 11. My head had cooled off and I was ready to take life by the horns. I just started NCEA Level One and was nervous as anything. Some kids were still finding it difficult to adapt but I think I got along just fine. One thing that stood out for me during that year was my form teacher, Mr Tua. He was this big, hulking guy who always sounded as if he wanted to kill somebody. I guess with a form class like ours, you couldn't really blame him. Year 12 was...great, actually. I can't remember much that went on except for the prize giving. 2013 was the year I won four awards. I was really proud of myself and I vowed to get awards for all five subjects this year. My anau class is a force to be reckoned with and I admire the anau teacher, Miss Cousins, for putting up with us. We love you! And all the little dramas that happened within our little anau class. Oh, those were the days. I am looking forward to 2014 and what it has in store for me.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Introducing

Android Phones



In Many different manufacturers release smartphones loaded with Android OS systems. The Android OS is available for free under the Apache license. The OS makes it easy for users to make calls, text, take photos, watch video, and surf the web. Downloading a lot of data to the Android smartphone means it will slow down over time. The battery can affect the phone's performance when it gets old and loses its charge, and needs to be replaced. Users can preserve their phone batteries by taking good care of them and avoiding exposure to extreme temperatures. To improve overall performance, users are encouraged to delete unwanted software and media, close background programs, use memory management software, and also use the factory reset to remove all saved data from the phone. Smartphone retailers, name brand websites, and auction sites like eBay are all places users can find these phones.

Tip 1: Keep it Fully Charged

Users will find that their Android Smartphones work best and last longer when kept fully charged. Take the time at the end of each day to plug the phone into the charger. Avoid using a phone until it completely runs out of power. This damages a phone's ability to hold a charge and affects its performance. Most of the lithium-ion batteries in cell phones last between three to five years, if care is taken with them. It's also important to avoid using the cell phone in extreme temperatures, as this can also affect the battery and lower its storage capacity. Storage capacity affects the length of time a phone can be used before it must be recharged again, until eventually, the phone can't hold a charge at all. The cooler the phone is kept when used and stored, the longer the battery will last. This isn't always possible to achieve, but is good to keep in mind when dealing with performance issues.

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What's right for me

By Carmel Beattie

The other day, I was working away at home feeling hot and uncomfortable – not an unusual condition for us all at the moment. But I realised that it wasn't just the weather but my home that was making me feel this way. There is nothing wrong with it, in fact it is charming AND right on the beach, so what was wrong? Am I just getting dissatisfied and cranky? I had been pondering this uncomfortable feeling for several weeks but was a little afraid to come to the necessary decision – I should move. What? Internal discussions ran along the lines of ..."Don't be ridiculous, you just got here! No, it isn't the house that you used to live in but nothing is and you can't go back so for goodness sake – move on!"

How could I contemplate moving when I have only been here a few months and am already over burdened with work stress and competing priorities? On the other hand, I felt that this lack of fit was attributing to the stress as well. So, as is my want, I escaped to the world of Pinterest (I tell you, it's addictive) for a bit to regain my equilibrium and lo, in front of me on the screen was the answer – a quote that said very simply, 'If you don't like where you are, then move, you're not a mountain!' Now I think this was meant to be a metaphor for something bigger but I chose to take it literally and started the search that day!

Yes, this weekend I will be

questioning my sanity – as do my friends – but I truly believe that it is important to do what is right for me and that will result in a happier, more settled life for not only me but those around me – who wants to hear you whinging?

This isn't a new manifesto of selfishness – it isn't all about me and what I need – but it is important to have internal peace and harmony or you cannot be the best that you can be to the world, to your peers and to yourself. This is about being true to yourself and your ideals which ultimately leads to greater happiness and success.

Many of us still hear our parent's voices in our ears regarding our choice of career, of partner or even hairstyle – "I still wish you had that lovely long hair in plaits!" "Move on, Mum, I'm 50!". While it is important to listen to our parents and to honour them, their ideas regarding career, partner etc are often coloured by their life experiences and are often more about what is their dream for us rather than what we know is right for us. Although sometimes, we all probably wish we had listened to them about that teenage crush! Now, our parents dreams for us can be wonderful and aligned to our own ideas but I don't believe that is in the rules that they have to be.

For instance, my mother was always brave and strong but veered towards the conservative – she is proud of our achievements but none of her children have been in the 'conventional'



roles she hoped for us – she would be alarmed at this seemingly quixotic move around the island. Dad, on the other hand, was of a more adventurous nature and I guess I am somewhat of a mixture but leaning to towards the Dad side of the gene pool on this. Both encouraged us to strive for what we want and to work hard to achieve but while Mum was thinking Law, Dad was just as happy if you wanted to become a circus performer if that was what was going to make you happy. Not being good on the high wire, I decided on the Tourism alternative and my brother and sister

followed their bliss into what worked for them – sorry Mum, no lawyers in this branch of the family.

So, doing what is right for you is about nurturing you the person, the community member, the parent, the friend etc and when that is done then everyone wins. It is not about being selfish but neither is it about being completely selfless to the detriment of self because that isn't going to make you happy either. Being happy in oneself is to be open to the world and all its possibilities and that's what's right for me!

Now....on with the packing!

Cook Islands a big Highlight in the BIG BANG

Motone can announce that the New Zealand festival event THE BIG BANG will now showcase the Cook Islands tamariki with their own stage and compositions a highlight of the event.

Maurice Newport of Motone Productions the Cook Islands Creative Company that has produced this tour said "we are now in full rehearsals everyday to get the kids up to speed with the complex compositions that they will be performing. The expectations of the group are high and to perform to 5000 people in Wellington with 200 other children on drums, a 200 piece choir, Strike Percussion group and the band Kora is pretty mind blowing for adults let along kids aged between 6 and 18!"

Music Director Murray Hickman who was also Motone's first creative resident last year has outlined a clear treatment of the performance that will last approximately 90 minutes and will be simultaneously broadcast on a big screen on the Wellington waterfront. The event is the opening to the festival and is to be attended by VIP's from around New Zealand.

"The fact that TV3 is the major sponsor to the event means that the coverage for this is national. The exposure for the Cook Islands and our talented children is huge and I hope to see us tour more contemporary work from the Cook Islands to other international event as well as showcase in an Arts festival for 2015 as part of our Independence celebrations." Said Glenda Tuaine of Motone Productions

Katu Teiti and Mark Short will also be performing on stage and are currently composing a variety of work to be included in the event. The programme

for the children after the vent is to take them to a variety of arts experiences to provide the opportunity for them to see productions they might never see such as the BBC Dr Who and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and a contemporary Dance group from Israel called DECCADANCE. "I have designed an itinerary for this group once the show is completed that will be a real eye opener to them on what arts is and how careers can be forged in art." said Tuaine "We will also perform at St Patricks College and at Victoria University as well as visit Te Papa.

The group are still fundraising and appreciate any support you can give so look out for them this Saturday morning as they will be drumming around the island to raise funds, with the Short family organising a concert with gold coin donation on Saturday afternoon at Eric Shorts residence in Vaimaanga. They have Quiz night scheduled for Monday 3rd Feb at the Golf Club contact Janette Olliver on 76111 to book a team.

"The project is the first of Motone Productions getting Cook Islands performers included in and creating work for International Festivals. The New Zealand festival has really grabbed a hold of what we can do and will look after us once we get to NZ with domestic flights, accommodation, transport and meals, but we need to fundraise for our international airfares and to look after the kids after the festival event which will cost \$10000.00 for the team." Says Glenda Tuaine of Motone Productions. "We are looking for funders, sponsors etc so as the New Year approaches why not support the development of Cook Islands Contemporary Performing Arts.



Ian bird survey Suvarrow



Rat team Suvarrow



Suvarrow rats

Rat eradication on Suwarrow, initial results look promising

Suwarrow Atoll, which lies in the Northern Cook Islands, is one of the more important bird islands in the Pacific Ocean. A large number and variety of seabirds live and breed on the atoll. It is also a key staging point for a number of migratory birds that spend several months there on their way to and from their own nesting grounds in places as far away as Alaska. Its importance for birds was recognised in 1978 when Suwarrow Atoll became a National Park. Suwarrow is an uninhabited with no introduced mammals, apart from rats, that prey on the young birds and eggs.

These birds have however had other threats in the past. These have come in the form of proposals for developments such as pearl farming or commercial fishing. Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) has a long involvement with Suwarrow, largely to help deal with these threats. This includes the successful "Save our Suwarrow" campaign in 2001, when TIS successfully opposed a proposal to establish a large commercial operation on the atoll to farm black pearls.

But the threat from rats has proved to be more challenging. Rats eat the eggs and the young chicks, and can have a devastating impacts on bird populations. TIS spearheaded an attempt to eradicate these rodents on Suwarrow in 2003, with funding support from the NZ Government. This was later found to have been unsuccessful, and the main concern for the birds on the island was still rats.

With renewed determination to fix the problem, a team of six intrepid environmentalists from Te Ipukarea Society, BirdLife International and the National Environment Service travelled to Suwarrow in mid 2013. The team spent 24 days on the



Marumaru Atua team

island applying lessons learnt from the 2003 attempt at rat eradication, as well as using the latest in internationally tested eradication techniques. The team consisted of team leader Ian Karika, Ben Tautu, Sialesi Rasalato, Ieremaia Samuela, Nick Hayward, and Steve Cranwell, ably assisted by the National Environment Service rangers, Harry Papai and Ngatupuna Poiri. Before the poisoning could start, the team had to hack paths through dense coastal shrubs on Motu Tou, Motu Kena, and Anchorage Islet. They suffered numerous wasp stings in the process. Tracks and baiting broadcast points were spaced every 20m, calculated to cover the home range of every rat. The tracks allowed the team to broadcast rat poison over the entire motu, to try to ensure that no rat could be missed.

But eradicating rats is just the first stage. Monitoring for

success is also very important. National Environment Service rangers assisted by setting traps and searching for rats for several months after the rest of the team departed on the Voyaging Society's Marumaru Atua. Though no evidence of rats was found, it will be necessary to have a follow up visit a year or two from now to determine if the eradication has really been a success.

Tissue samples were taken from a number of dead rats for DNA testing. If any rats are found in the future DNA samples will be taken to determine if the rats are related to those that were there previously, meaning that the eradication exercise was not completely successful. However, if any rats are found to be from a different genetic strain, this means they are new introductions that would have arrived on the atoll from visiting yachts, fishing boats, or inter

island shipping. To prevent reinfestation by rats from elsewhere, there is a need to put in place a biosecurity plan, to try and minimize the risk of any new rats getting to Suwarrow. The cooperation of all boats that visit the island will be needed to ensure rats do not re-enter and that the eggs and chicks of Suwarrow Atoll's and are safe to hatch and fly.

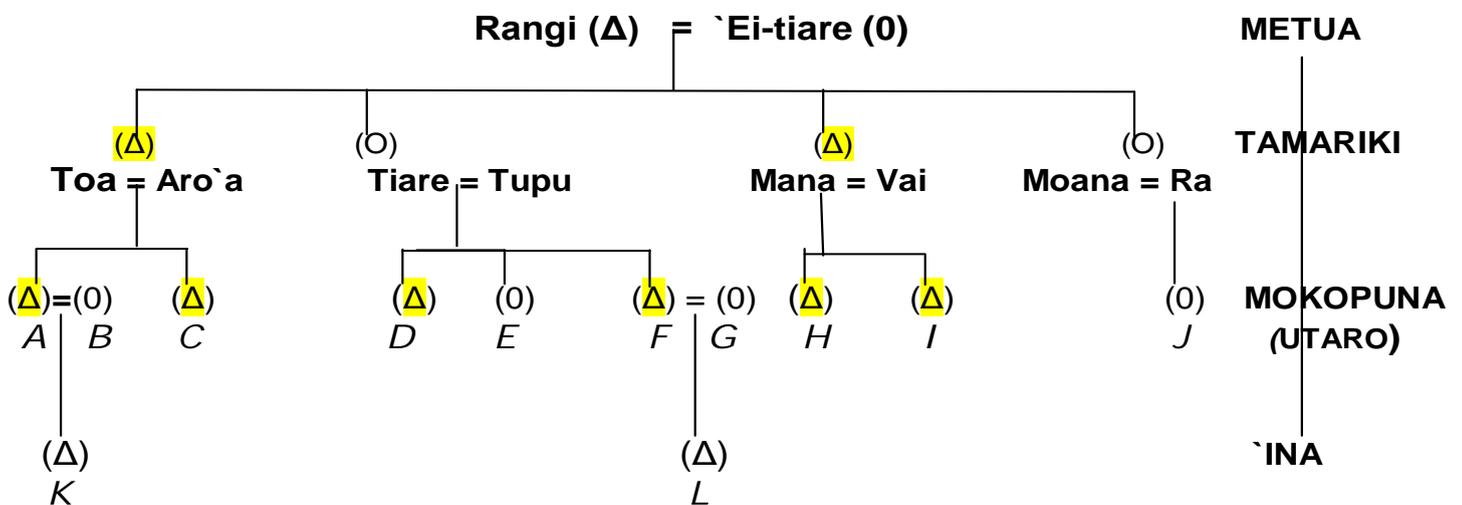
Note: The expedition was a joint project between BirdLife International, Te Ipukarea Society (BirdLife Partner in the Cook Islands) and the Cook Island National Environment Service. The project was supported by the European Community, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, SPREP, GEF and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and forms part of the BirdLife Invasive Alien Species Programme which is tackling this greatest of threats to wildlife around the world.

TE REO MĀORI

Piri`anga Kōpū-tangata: Family Kinship

tātā`ia e Rutera Taripo

I tēia `epetoma, ka `ākara tātou ki tēta`i tu`anga pu`apinga i roto i tō tātou ora`anga i te Kūki `Airani nei, koia `oki, tō tātou Piri`anga kōpu-tangata.
This week, we will look at an important part of our Cook Islands life, which is our Family kinship.



“ Kia Orāna. Ko au tēia ko Toa (e tuatua nei)”
“Greetings. This is Toa speaking now”

- 1 Ko Rangi tōku metua-tāne / pāpā, `ē ko `Ei-tiare tōku metua-va`ine / māmā
My father is Rangi, and my mother is `Ei-tiare
- 2 Ko Mana tōku teina, `ē ko Tiare rāua ko Moana ōku tuā`ine
Mana is my (younger) brother, and Tiare and Moana are my sisters
- 3 `E tuā`ine rāi rāua no Mana
They (2) are also Mana’s sisters
- 4 `E tungāne `oki māua nō rāua
We (2), of course, are their brothers
- 5 Ko au te tuakana ō Mana, `ē ko Tiare te tuakana o Moana
I am Mana’s (older) brother, and Tiare is Moana’s (older) sister
- 6 Ko au rā te mātāmua/mata`iapo o tō mātou kōpū/puna
But I am the first born/eldest of our family



How to make successful decisions in 2014 and beyond

part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this theme there are 8 important lessons or principles from the Book of Proverbs to help you make wise, sound and successful decisions that will benefit you, your family or your household this year and beyond. Four of these lessons were covered in Part 1 and the remaining 4 will be covered in Part 2.

In order to make successful decisions,

STEP ONE: PRAY FOR GUIDANCE – Proverbs 28v.26 (Living Bible) “A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God’s wisdom are safe.” You start in any decision making by getting God’s perspective. James 1v.5 says, “If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask God” and he went on to say that, “... the reason why you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask God for it.” (James 4v.2[c])

STEP TWO: GET THE FACTS. Proverbs 13v.16 “Every prudent (wise; careful) man acts out of knowledge.” Find out all you can to help you decide. Don’t assume that what people say is true. Think before you act. Proverbs 23v.23 reads “Get the facts at any price” When in doubt, check it out.

STEP THREE: ASK FOR ADVICE Proverbs 24v.6 “The more advice you get, the more likely you are to win.” Proverbs 20v.18 reads “Get good advice and you will succeed.” Learn from the experiences of others.

STEP FOUR: SET YOUR GOAL Proverbs 17v.24 (GN) “An intelligent man aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions.” In life, if we want to succeed we need to be clear in our minds what to do.

STEP FIVE: COUNT THE COST This is what you call a calculated risk. Ask yourself 1) Is it necessary? Is there any other way I can reach my



goal without having to make this decision? Is this risk necessary? 2). What will it cost? Everything worthwhile in life costs. It costs money, it costs time, it costs energy, it costs your reputation. 3) Is it worth it? Is the risk worth it? Will the potential profit be greater than the risk involved? Proverbs 20v.25 reads “Think carefully before you promise an offering to God. You might regret it later.” The point is: It is always easier to get in, than it is to get out. It’s always easier to get into debt, than to get out of debt. It’s always easier to get into a relationship, than it is to get out. It’s always easier to get into something than to get out of it. In the Parable of the Builder in Luke 6v.46-49 Jesus said ...no wise builder goes out and starts to build a building, a tower, without first budgeting and seeing how much it’s going to cost. Can I complete this thing? Can I pay for it? Life is full of risks. But there are ways, according to scripture, to minimize the risks in the decisions we make.

STEP SIX: PLAN FOR PROBLEMS Proverbs 20v.18 (GN) “Don’t go charging into a battle without a plan.” Don’t ignore your problems, because they’re not going to ignore you. Be wise and choose to meet your problems on your terms and your time by planning for them in advance. Proverbs 22v.3 “A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.” Be sensible and plan for problems.

STEP SEVEN: FACE YOUR

FEARS We hate to admit it when we’re afraid. We think that fear is a sign that we’re weak. Fear, like any other emotion, has its purpose. One of the purposes is a warning light. One of the greatest fears that we all have is in Proverbs 29v.25 “Fear of man is a dangerous trap, but to trust in God means safety.” Fear of man is the fear of rejection. That is the fear that tends to be the primary motivator in many people’s lives. “What will other people think?... What if I fail? What if I embarrass myself? What will they think... What if I don’t meet with everybody’s standards? ... What if nobody likes me?” That is a trap!

How do you face your fears? Proverbs 14v.26 “Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security.” You can’t eliminate fear. Move against your fears. “Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear.” Courage is when you do what you’re afraid to do. It doesn’t mean you’re not afraid. It means you do it in spite of your fear.

STEP EIGHT: GO FOR IT! There comes a point of decision making when you must stop talking and start acting. It’s a point of commitment. Proverbs 16v.3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.” Once you’ve decided it’s worth the risk, go for it! There comes that point of no return when you just go for it! Nobody remembers the people who refused to risk. We only remember the people of faith. Faith is the bottom line in the Christian life. If you’re not taking any risks then your faith is useless.



How do you make successful decisions? 1) Pray for it. 2) Get the facts. 3) Ask for advice. 4) Set your goals. 5) Count the cost. 6) Plan for problems. 7) Face your fears, and 8) Go for it! Make that commitment!

It is my prayer that you will find these 8 lessons or principles helpful in making successful decisions for your life, your family or your household this year and beyond.

May you have a God blessed week! Te Atua te aroa!

TAXING TIMES:

Neves, Haigh, Saunders under spotlight

By Charles Pitt

Revelations that senior government officials may have seriously failed in their duty of care to exercise due diligence in applying the law has angered some locals.

In last Saturday's daily, Finance Secretary Neves moved to deflect public criticism from the raiding of pensioner's bank accounts to recover tax owed on the NZ pension, by stressing the important contribution taxes make to the economy. However, the focus remains very much on the legality of the process adopted by the Collector of taxes, Andrew Haigh, to recover the taxes owed.

Last Wednesday, Cabinet Minister, Teina Bishop, claimed that Haigh should have obtained a High Court Order under section 191 of the Income Tax Act before proceeding under section 192 to extract tax owed, from the bank accounts of those receiving the NZ pension.

Neves claimed Haigh had acted under section 192 and the Herald understands MFEM had obtained a legal opinion from a QC (Queen's Counsel). It is not clear whether the opinion was sought before bank accounts were raided or afterward. The fact an opinion was sought appears to indicate either MFEM or Crown Law were in some doubt over the Collector's powers or were seeking an alternative process to the time consuming and costly one of obtaining Court Orders.

In Monday's daily, Neves invited a Court challenge but has not made the QC's opinion public. As with any opinion, it is just that-an opinion which could be challenged in Court. What has not been explained is where is Crown Law's opinion? Was it Crown Law which referred the



Andrew Haigh

matter to the QC?

MFEM's legal opinion aside, the wording of section 191 seems quite clear. The current situation is serious enough to warrant a legal challenge or an approach to the Court for a ruling.

Should there be a challenge and the Court rule MFEM acted illegally, then the three senior government officials at the heart of this matter, Andrew Haigh, Collector of Taxes, Richard Neves, Secretary of Finance and, Kim Saunders, Crown Solicitor, may have no alternative but to tender their resignations.

It is unclear why MFEM did not seek a Court ruling at the outset. Subsequent developments have undermined public confidence in government and raised sufficient doubt to potentially expose government and the banking sector to litigation.

People are also questioning where were the checks and balances?

It is clear MFEM's legal opinion did not reach Cabinet otherwise why would Bishop question MFEM's approach?

What does it take to prompt the Ombudsman, the Director of Audit, Crown Law and the Financial Supervisory Commissioner (who oversees the performance of the banking sector), into action? The issues involved were in the public arena and politically very damaging. Surely this would warrant some interest from agencies of the State who are regarded as the public's watch dogs?

Did it not occur to the bank involved to consult its legal advisors? What due diligence did the bank exercise?

While the PM has agreed for money taken from bank accounts to be reimbursed, the imposition of conditions to be met before this occurs, will have no legal foundation if the money was taken illegally.



Richard Neves

Cabinet should initiate an enquiry into what has occurred and what the legal fallout might be, notwithstanding the severe embarrassment Cabinet itself is now suffering due to the actions of a few senior civil servants.

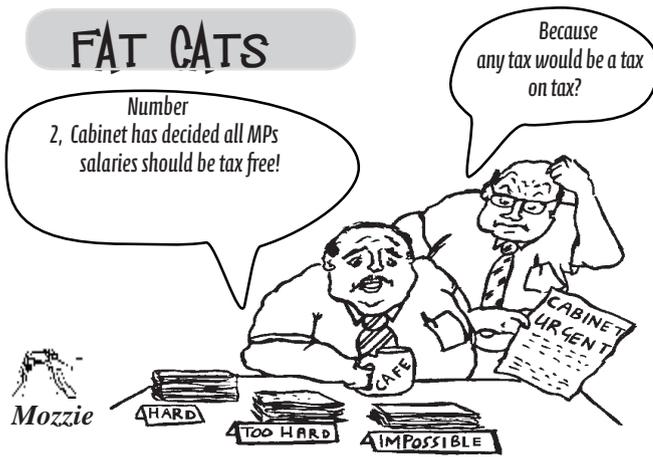
Unfortunately for Neves, Haigh and Saunders, their tenures now appear on shaky ground.

Public servants will make mistakes in the course of their careers but those at the top of their game, like Neves, Haigh and Saunders, are not allowed to make mistakes.

Any failure of this nature is not superficial, it cuts deep into the very fabric of this society. Many elderly admit to being under enormous stress and uncertainty. Is our society to become one permeated by fear and mistrust?

Most importantly, Cabinet needs to assert its authority, get the vaka off the rocks, and promptly, before more public confidence is lost.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Tax man Haigh (or should that be axe man?) was rumoured to have muttered to a colleague the other day that the grey power lot "Are a bunch of old biddies!" Way to go Andy! You're going to be an "old biddie" one day! Get your walking stick now while they're still being made!



Oh dear chooks, once again we strike one of those high and mighty papa'as who pontificate on local affairs without knowing the full history behind things! Where do these instant experts come from? This chappie Beard comes here for two months every year and now is an expert on local affairs! Good grief! Now he's calling grey power's old biddies tax dodgers! That's insulting to our old folk. If he read the Herald, he would know that for the last 17 years, successive governments have not required those on the NZ pension to pay tax. This was a deliberate move on the part of government to attract Cookies to come home and spend their pension money here. Now this government is cash strapped, it has a two million dollar deficit, it wants to tax these pensioners. These old biddies do not object to paying tax, just to paying the two years back tax. Beard you must be

CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED

a hypocrite because those on the local pension have not paid tax on their pensions since 1989, but now will be required to. Under your logic, these old biddies would also be tax dodgers! Go home Beard, flick the top off a cold one, put your feet up and stay there.



Once again, we are not thinking "smart" when it comes to solving our problems. Talk of huge concrete water reservoirs is expensive talk. Why not do what many old biddies have been saying for years? Dam up one of the rivers and create a large lake. Run a small hydro-electric plant at the same time to generate electricity. They did this in Fiji, Samoa and Tahiti. Of course, all this is too simple and does not cost as much as this latest project which has become a nutrient rich feeding ground for consultants.



Deary me chooks! Some plastic water tanks are cracking on the

side! What's going on? One water expert chirps to Big Red it's because the ground the tank is sitting on is not level. So the weight is all to one side, causing the tank to split. It's all to do with preparing the ground properly.



Is it kosher for Tourism Corp to dole out for movies made by overseas crews if they are not necessarily tourism related? Perhaps Film Raro should be taking the plastic bucket to BITB's door or to the Ministry of Culture, not Tourism Corp.



On Friday, MOIP will become ICI. That's after PWD became MOW then MOIP. Will a change of name improve things? O3b will speed up broadband service delivery so will ICI speed up infrastructure service delivery? If ICI fails to deliver, what will it turn into next? CII?



Big Red has heard whispers that the Lord High Mandarins minding

the vaka, have made a decision to turn the tax clock backwards. What will the Leader utter upon his return? How will the old folk react? What will the Aussie say?



Here's news for MFEM's taxing ex-pats. Lawyers are being consulted over the legality of the tax deductions and expect a legal challenge to come your way. Big Red has given forward notice-be prepared!



Nothing has been heard from the Mita man for a while-nothing except that is where the Cabinet and others are concerned! They have received registered letters. Big Red is poised to disclose all, watch this space!



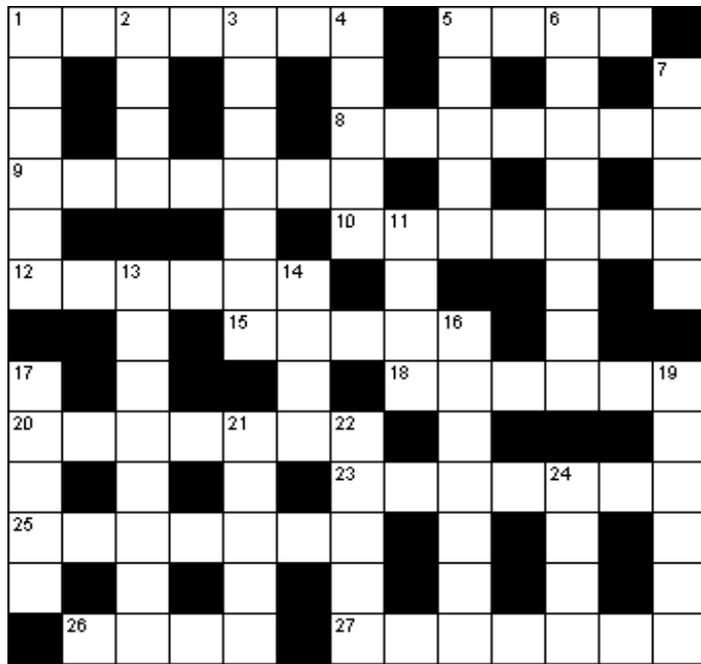
Fresh eggs may soon be on the menu, roadside in Atupa! Breakfasts are being planned at an affordable price just as soon as the hens deliver!

Cook Islands
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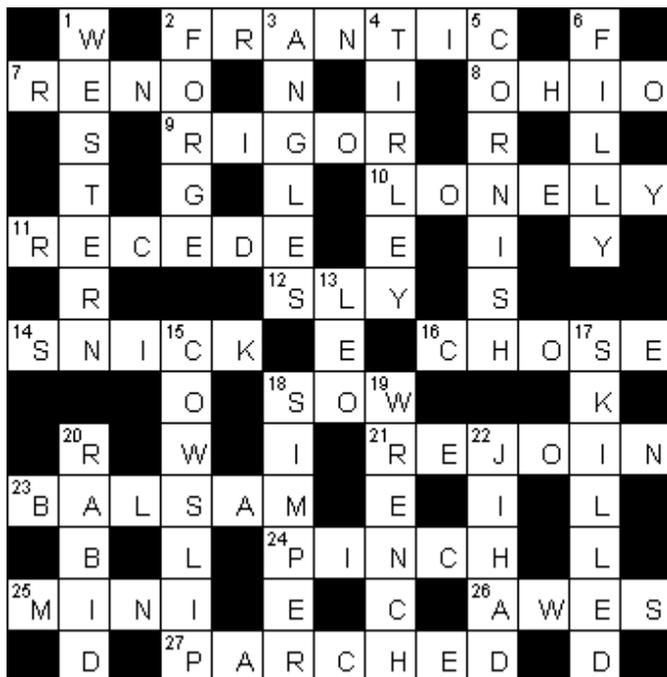
Across

- 1. Methods (7)
- 5. Expel (4)
- 8. Of no use (7)
- 9. Strategic withdrawal (7)
- 10. Low shrub (7)
- 12. Having a hood (6)
- 15. Portals (5)
- 18. Climbing device (6)
- 20. Mother and father (7)
- 23. Communications satellite (7)
- 25. Blunder (7)
- 26. Denomination (4)
- 27. Pigsty (7)

- 3. Went in (7)
- 4. Compass point (5)
- 5. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 6. Person who tends sheep (8)
- 7. Consumers (5)
- 11. Nobleman (4)
- 13. Pass (8)
- 14. Do not (4)
- 16. Young tree (7)
- 17. Very little bit (5)
- 19. Seldom (6)
- 21. The dark (5)
- 22. Divest (5)
- 24. Duration (4)

Down

- 1. Quest (6)
- 2. Set of clothing (4)



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TENDER



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS -
WATSAN UNIT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

FOR RAROTONGA GROUNDWATER

INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING PROJECT

WATSAN is the Water, Waste & Sanitation Unit of the Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) tasked with the development and management of Policies, Strategies, Planning and Projects within the water, waste and sanitation sector.

A key deliverable for the unit relates to improving surface and groundwater quality to promote sustainable cultural and recreational use of the lagoons, sustainable tourism and to safeguard public health.

The WATSAN Unit is managing several programmes and projects that require:

- (i) The creation and/or reinstatement of a number of groundwater investigation and monitoring points around Rarotonga; and
- (ii) Assessment of groundwater quantity, quality and availability from selected groundwater monitoring points.

ICI wishes to invite proposals from an appropriately qualified, experienced and equipped firm to provide these services.

A copy of the Request for Proposals document including specifications can be requested by email from the address provided below.

Proposals close at 4pm on Wednesday, 5th February 2014, Cook Islands time, and must be submitted via electronic copy to the email address below OR in hard copy to the ICI Office in Arorangi inside a sealed envelope addressed to:

Mr Mac Mokoroa

Secretary

Infrastructure Cook Islands

PO Box 102

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

and clearly marked with "RAROTONGA GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING PROJECT" and the applicants name.

Enquiries to: Jaime Short

WATSAN Programme Coordinator

P: +682 22-648 E: jaime.short@moip.gov.ck

**Over \$5,000 raised for
Tonga**

by TeRiu Woonton

All funds made from Mama Kafos \$5 plates of food last Friday at her outlet Kafoteria went towards her village of Holopeka in Tonga, where 37 homes and 2 churches were destroyed by Cyclone Ian. Mama Kafo sent an amount of \$5,400 through Western Union on Monday morning, where the Payout Clerk from the Haapai Group received the funds. A meeting was then called in Holopeka, led by the village councilor where each household family, church and school received their individual envelope with funds, raised by Mama Kafo. Mama Kafo would like to thank everyone for helping with food, money, love and prayers, "I didn't know I was loved like this, but after all the help I received, it really showed people do love me", she says with thanks. The people of Holopeka also send their thanks and love to everyone who contributed and donated and they are deeply grateful to receive cash in their hands. Mama Kafo says she has received calls from her people of Holopeka ever since sending the funds, thanking her for her efforts. While she is happy that she reached her target amount, funds are still rolling in. She received a \$100 donation early Tuesday morning and all funds will be sent to Tonga at a later date.

VACANCY



FISHERIES OFFICER

(Part-time, Mauke, Mitiaro)

The MMR has two vacancies for a part time officer based on Mauke and Mitiaro. Applicants should be familiar with local fisheries and able to work closely with traditional leaders, Island Council and the fishing community. Qualifications and skills are required. For further information contact Uirangi Bishop on telephone 28730. Please provide a letter of application and CV addressed to the Secretary, P.O Box 85, Avarua or by email (rar@mmr.gov.ck) Applications close 4pm on Monday 3 February 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CISPCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 28th January 2014

Time: 5pm

Venue: Puhoi Hut CIGFC

Agenda

Minutes of previous AGM

Matters arising

President's report

Treasurer's report

Audit report

Election of office bearers

General business

All members and intending members please attend

Secretary

Tonga Cyclone Appeal for Cyclone Ian at

Staircase

Restaurant and Bar

Friday 24th of January at 6.30pm

\$15 dinner

\$5 cover charge

Accepting Donations

Help Support our Cook Islands Tongan Community

Thank you Very Much For Your Kind Donation

Cyclone Ian Radiothon also Friday 24 from 12pm to 6pm

GUEST ARTISTS

Te Korero Dance Group

Petero, Rex, Caleb T,

Phillipino Community, Fijian Community

Thomas Ngauru - Soul Healers

Tongan Community

Kura Happ, Kahiki

Call 22254 or 52881 for more information and Reservations