

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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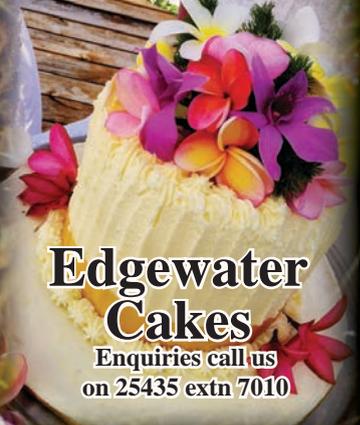
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BTIB biggest hurdle to Digicel buy out

CIP Government needs fast cash to avoid fiscal collapse

The Cook Islands Party Government has no right to refuse first option to buy out New Zealand's majority share holding of Telecom Cook Islands (TCI). Finance secretary Richard Neves is recommending the government cash up and get out of TCI or maintain only 20% shareholding. There is no doubt Neves' treasure chest is bone empty and he is juggling money between accounts to stay afloat.

The CIP government is under extreme pressure and will do anything to avoid shedding of the bloated unsustainable public service to make ends meet. Their reckless wastage of public money has triggered a downward slide of the economy, the best this overspent government can do is make desperate attempts to slow down the inevitable melt down.

A cash injection from TCI share sales will financially prop up the government short term and allow for vote buying projects in the outer islands to have a chance of a repeat term.

With Rarotonga a politically lost cause for the CIP due to the Grey Power debacle, high resistance to the \$64 million plus Te Mato Vai Project, spiked levies and fees, tax issues like the VAT increase and widely perceived mismanagement of the economy, the CIP are desperate to claw back support from the 14 outer Island constituencies who to a large extent are unfamiliar with government's performance on Rarotonga.

For years there has been an interest among the business community to buy TCI shares if they ever became available to the public. Rather than advertise for expressions of interest in public ownership of shares the Government has been consistent to form in making million dollar deals before divulging the news to the public. If Neves is driving



Telecom Cook Islands

the activities and process it is secretive and obscured by hidden agendas.

The CIP government's total disregard for prudent principles stemmed from the Mineral Seabed mining hype propagated by their own spin doctoring Paul Lynch. Reckless to the extreme the CIP administration has spent public money with wild abandonment to the detriment of the people who are now being burdened with an avalanche of taxes and increased charges.

Now that the reality seabed riches are decades away, the power intoxicated CIP have sobered up to the fact the country is at the cliff's edge financially. Prospect spending based on unrealistic revenue projections has become a way of life for the CIP politicians to the point it has become an addiction no thanks to Neves hypnotic power over his bosses.

The proposed Digicel quick fix fire sale smells offensive and the lack of transparency an embarrassment to good governance.

The Cook Islands' Alamo to the unbelievable willingness of the CIP government to readily surrender the control of its most fundamental pillar of our economy is the Business Trade

Investment Board (BTIB).

BTIB will resist any political pressure to fast track Digicel's Foreign Enterprise Registration (FER) which will not be issued after any purchase of TCI if pre-purchased compliance is ignored. As usual Neves along with his tag team partner from Crown Law Kim Saunders, will try his bulldozer bully boy tactics to get his way even hypocritically quoting the law to force BTIB into submission.

Before NZ proceeds with a sale to Digicel it would be advisable for them to advertise for expressions of interest from the Cook Islands. Before the Government acts in haste to dispose publicly owned shares to Digicel they need to advertise locally for buyers. This has been the normal practise since the conception of BTIB. Locals must be given the first opportunity to purchase a locally based business if it is for sale.

There is no urgency for Government to sell any of the people's shares. Our shares return a dividend of \$2 million annually; this will not be matched by Digicel who according to a TCI source is offering \$7 million for half of our 40% stake.

Digicel will sign off the financials once a year and

if the Cook Islands still have shares, that's the sum of Board meetings they will attend just for the signing. Operations will be restructured reducing all management and supervisory positions by 25%, that's at least 30 jobs becoming redundant, some of those being in the outer islands, where Digicel will minimise their losses. Digicel doesn't subscribe to social responsibility which will have a negative impact on some outer islands. What considerations were given to the outer islands?

With no competition Digicel will have a field day with their charges. Election promises by the CIP to legislate the removal of TCI's monopoly will no doubt be quietly forgotten. The CIP did not campaign on a policy to sell national assets; therefore they must either conduct a referendum or go to the polls to get a majority mandate to do so. The six men in cabinet must declare their position regarding the sale; in addition to that, six men simply don't have the moral right to sell what belongs to the people. That right was never invested in them. - George Pitt

Opinions about the Digicel buy out are welcomed by the CI Herald for publication.

Murienua may yet have a third By-election

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Some extremely disturbing misinformation by the Prime Minister has been told me by sources within the Cook Islands Party camp. PM Henry Puna had rather mischievously been telling people in Murienua that the Democratic Party central executive and committee and its leader does not really support James Beer. Instead they support Kaota Tuariki, the CIP candidate. What a load of hogwash. Statements like that indicate the PM is extremely distressed and desperate.

From the start, I, as leader and the Demo caucus along with a robust central executive committee have put our weight and confidence behind James Beer. He came to the fore as the Demo candidate in the 2010 general elections but there were three candidates that contested then. He again stood with the blessing of the Murienua Demo committee along with the central committee, caucus and me but lost in a close battle. Here we are again and it was thorough James effort in pushing for petitions to be filed against Kaota Tuariki and the CIP for corruption that we are back in a by-election. So don't listen to what the PM is saying, he is becoming more and more like someone of unsound mind. Little did he know that the former MP for Pukapuka Inatio Akaruru had distanced himself from Puna's CIP? And so did Papa Kura Strickland who recently passed away as well.

It's a sad testament really to the memories of these former political fathers of our country when they no longer felt secure and respected by the current CIP leader and his team. Both those Papa's had been in regular dialogue with me over the last year up to the point of their

passing and did not condone anything the PM has done or is doing. They both dismissed the Te Mato Vai as debt burden and both I understand had their MP pensions also cut. That I will talk about in a later column.

The PM needs to come clean and tell the truth. As a lawyer, he should know that the complaint to the Police against Kaota Tuariki is not going away. The investigation is well underway and sooner or later Kaota is going to be charged and then tried in the Criminal High Court. The chances that he might get convicted are extremely high and if he does, Murienua will have to go into another by-election. That's what the PM needs to be told not spread untrue statements. That can only go against his credibility.

All in all the Government should seriously think about coming clean. Kaota as is now known resigned as the elected MP of Murienua because he knew he had committed the electoral and criminal offences of treating and bribery. These fall under the umbrella of corruption which we all are trying to eliminate. His resignation of course does not absolve him. He must still answer to the law that he, if secured as an MP makes. What kind of a lawmaker would he be then if he comes to Parliament with this label of being a law-breaker? It's a bit like George Maggie of Tupapa, but George has served his time but if only he has better understanding of what an MP actually does in the law making process. What I mean by that is, if he does not agree with a law he should vote against it not talk against it and then vote in favour. That's what hypocrites do. And both Kaota and the PM are hypocrites in the very same sense.

I want all Demos' and unhappy CIPs' or those not

affiliated to any political party to think carefully about why you elect someone to represent you. Is it because you want that person to fight for you? Or is it because that person wants a comfortable job? The Democratic Party is dynamic organization blazing the way forward for young people and for the future generations of our country. James Beer symbolizes that generations of go-getters, entrepreneurs, people who are not afraid to speak out. I understand Kaota Tuariki refuses to go on radio to debate; – now what is that all about. Does he not believe in transparency and accountability? James Beer does and those are two fundamental principles of the Democratic Party that I lead.



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TE APONGA UIRA

How to prepare?



It's hard to imagine how you prepare for the experience of a category 5 cyclone like the people of Tonga suffered recently.

Virtually everything in its path took a beating: huge waves pounding beaches and coastal villages, homes and structures destroyed, trees and crops uprooted, electricity and water supplies cut off. Here's what you can do before a cyclone. Store a portable radio, torch, spare batteries, stocks of fresh water and canned food, matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking gear, utensils, can opener and waterproof bags. This will help you get back on your feet quickly after a cyclone.

www.teaponga.com

Demo official bungles attempt to lure Bishop

Last week Democratic Party secretary and Opposition Office CEO Eddie Drollet was on a mission in Aitutaki to lure Cook Islands Party MP Teina Bishop to form an alliance with the Democratic Party. Drollet was endeavouring to convince Are Nikau Para (ANP) Demos to make the approach to Bishop with the offer of a senior leadership position even the Leader of the Party.

Drollet suggested the current leader Wilkie Rasmussen looked like losing his Penrhyn seat leaving the DP with a Leadership vacancy. It is reported Drollet said if Rasmussen lost, many Demos feared Atiu MP Norman George would take over the Leadership of the Party, a thought that repulsed Drollet.

If Demo James Beer was the successful candidate in the Murienua by election, that would be the time for the

Aitutaki Demos to encourage Bishop to switch, even having a by election with Bishop standing as an Independent or Demo.

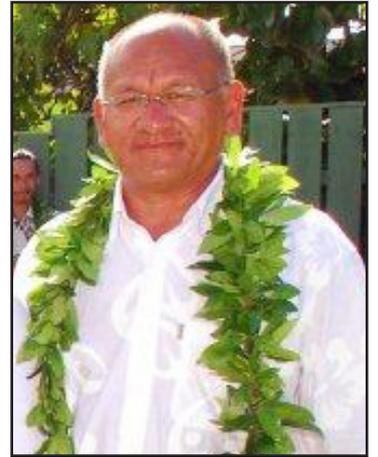
When asked if he was representing the leader Rasmussen, Drollet said he came in the name of the DP and was preserving their future. Drollet has been a vigorous activist against Norman George being admitted into DP membership. With the political matrix in Aitutaki not readily understood by outsiders Drollet's political cloak and dagger activities proved he was way off the mark.

Drollet's medalling in Aitutaki politics was questioned by the ANP Demos who claim Drollet had no authority or status to make promises. Their perception Drollet's promises was because he is desperate to protect his own interests including canvassing other Aitutaki Demos to vote for him as the Party secretary at the

next DP conference. One source said Drollet was too much I, I, I, making like he was the leader.

The ANP constituency isn't a safe CIP seat that many consider it to be. The DP has often failed to nominate a candidate to stand against Bishop in Elections but it's not because of it being a CIP strong hold but because the ANP Demos also vote for Bishop. ANP is a Bishop strong hold. Bishop's serves all political persuasions without reservation or favour making him irresistible to members of both political parties.

Whether their MP has been in the government or not, it has never been an excuse by Bishop to down grade his constituency involvement and development. Offers of leadership won't tempt ANP Demos to lure Bishop, they are happy with him as it is, they don't see anything more they could gain whatever happens.



Eddie Drollet

If or when Bishop is not a candidate for ANP the two Parties will revert to their Party confines. Any replacement for Bishop has big shoes to fill and won't find acceptance by either Party if they cannot demonstrate sufficient personal resources and an external network of accessible resources.

-George Pitt

Chinese ready to solve dog epidemic

Once again our Chinese friends are more than willing to help solve our problems. This time there are no loans, monetary gifts or stringent foreign legal frame works to negotiate and navigate through. High on the Tourism forum agenda last week was Rarotonga's unlicensed and stray dog problem.

Days before the forum a male tourist was mauled by three dogs near a major Resort in Arorangi. He sustained ghastly wounds from dog bites to his leg needing hospital treatment. The tourist has sought legal advice and is preparing a case to sue the

Cook Islands Government.

Under public pressure the Police ceased their successful dog culling program of shooting stray collarless dogs. Despite being unhappy they had been lumbered with policing the dog population the Police's dog ranger was bringing the over populated dogs under control. With no longer a dog ranger on patrol or on call the dog demographics have slowly ballooned and is now a menace to our Tourism industry.

Rather than wait till a few more mauled tourists are mauled, killed or injured as a result of a dog related road accident resulting in million dollar law suits, the Chinese dog solution must be accepted with gratitude.

At the forum the Police

Commissioner said none of his staff are specifically trained to handle dogs and that there needs to be a new solution to the problem. Thanks to the assistance of the Chinese the solution response was immediate.

About forty Chinese workers will soon be housed at their accommodation quarters in Avarua central, the very heart of the roaming stray dog problem. The Chinese solution is they will catch the unregistered dogs and properly slaughter then prepare them for consumption. Selected areas will be specified as to where the dogs can be caught. In Avarua central only unregistered dogs that stray onto their compound can be

caught and only after working hours or the close of business.

The Chinese have a unique method of catching the dogs without the use of firearms and are confident the Police and Tourist operators will appreciate their humane solution to a potentially costly problem. As a food source dogs are a protein delicacy for Chinese consumers. As an innovative good will exercise by appointment and invitation local dog meat consumers will be able to share the specially prepared dog meals with our visiting Chinese workers at their accommodation compound.

As an ancient Chinese proverb says, one man's problem is another man's pleasure.

-George Pitt



OTE JAMES BEER for MURIENUA

Social Media Workshop in Noumea begins

By TeRiu Woonton

PACMAS in conjunction with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community bought together communication managers from mainstream media, civil society organizations and different Government members from across the Pacific region using social media for communication to the Pacific Media Summit for the Social Media and Strategic Outcomes workshop. Day one of the Social Media Workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia at the SPC grounds, commenced on Monday with 17 participants and a number of interested associates join in. Amongst the Pacific Island participants were Anitelu Toe'api, who is the Information and Communication Officer for Civil Society Forum of Tonga and coordinates the activities of the Civil Society Organizations Media Community of Practice, Epineri Vula, who has worked for more than 20 years in mainstream and online media; Vula is the Managing Digital Media Editor of Fiji Sun Newspaper and Melali Taape, the Director of the Tuvalu Media Department that is under the Ministry of the Office of the Prime Minister. ABC International, Head of Digital Operations David Hua is facilitator for the 2 day workshop and presented participants with interesting statistics and facts relating to social media, discussions on a better understanding of the digital media landscape, social media policies, social media plans and

how social media can be used more effectively and confidently within an organization or business. It was discussed in the workshop the different media platforms that are popular to the Pacific, such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, SoundCloud and YouTube and while number one social media engine for the Cook Islands remains to be Facebook, with the newly set up O3B Network in place, different Cook Islands Society Groups who are linked on Facebook should soon have the luxury of faster internet speed while using different media platforms. Internet usage continues to grow rapidly in the Pacific, with Fiji and Samoa penetration rates taking the lead with increases over 30 times between 2000 and 2012 therefore the two-day classroom based workshop will see the 17 communications professionals from across the Pacific go beyond the use of social media for the distribution of information to using the technology to achieve strategic outcomes. The Media Workshop will wrap up on the Tuesday the 11th prior to the Pacific Media Summit, which takes place on the 12th, 13th and 14th of February and the Pacific Island Participants will start to depart Noumea on Saturday the 15th of February.

Facts from Social Media Workshop.

*The average age of people who are on Twitter are 37.3

*The average age of people who are on Facebook are 40.5

*Average age of people who have a YouTube account is 35-54

*Average age of those who have an Instagram Account is under 35

*Average age of people on Flickr is 40.2

*Average age of people on Pinterest is 40.1

-In a single day, there are over 2.7 billion Facebook likes, 300 million photo updates, 2.5 billion status updates

-Google is the largest search engine used worldwide, the second is YouTube

-The Chinese are the biggest users of social media in the world and the first thing that 95% of people in America touch after they wake up is their phone

+For 2013, usage by the 55 to 64 year olds increased by 100% for Facebook, Twitter and Google

Te Riu Woonton reports from the Pacific Media Summit

Mr. Michael Jackson, a publisher, editor and owner for Niue newspaper, Niue Star is in Noumea attending the Pacific Media Summit as board member of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), Vice President for PINA and representing the media of Niue.

What are some of the major issues Niue is facing?

"I would say Climate Change and Gender Quality. It's something our people have known for a long time and have accepted it and it is a very important issue that we are facing, especially only being a small island within the Pacific. Also, our population is declining which is affecting us and our businesses. Our young people are leaving Niue for New Zealand, it can't be because of the jobs because there are a lot of jobs in Niue but they find it boring! They move overseas for entertainment, sports, further their education and go to different kinds of Universities, all the opportunities they don't



Michael Jackson

have in Niue. While our young people are leaving, we have the elderly who are coming back to Niue because the New Zealand pension will soon be available in Niue; unlike before, they had to be living in New Zealand to receive the pension".

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Letters to the Editor

Stop throwing mud

Dear Editor,
I write in reference to the letter by Raymond Newnham, Matavera FC Vice President in yesterday's CI News. It is heartening to learn that he sympathizes so much for his political friends in Football.

Firstly, Raymond walks over his Club President and writes a letter. Where is the protocol in your club? Or do you have any at all?

He accused CIFA for requesting for the Investigator who was duly appointed by the Ethics Committee made up of three lawyers from Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands and none from the Cook Islands as per the newspaper article last week.

Reading CI News over the last few months clearly shows that FCI members weren't questioning CIFA but were in fact accusing CIFA of certain things they didn't do. For example, on the 16th October 2013, CI News apologized to CIFA and its President Lee Harmon for a letter published two days earlier.

Do you really think these lawyers from three different countries will suspend people for nothing? Stop throwing mud at OFC and CIFA.

Raymond we should talk about Football and stop throwing mud at other people. Last year I went out to Matavera to watch some Football at the CIFA complex. Oh my gosh, I saw a cricket match! Puaikura scored 36 goals to Matavera's nil. I learned the day after, that the coach was Raymond Newnham and this is a Cook Islands record. I also learned there was no other score close to this margin throughout the whole season. We should discuss and find ways on how to improve your club's football next year, for this is far more important.

Let's talk Football.

Sour grapes and soccer

Dear Editor,
It appears MW at the other paper got her nose out of joint for being caught out over her one sided reporting on the soccer carry on. Annoyed she missed out on the scoop regarding the suspensions and fines for the three FCI agitators who have been spreading defamatory rumours about CIFA President Lee Harmon even calling him a crook, MW has clearly chosen to be Baudinet and company's publicist. CIFA did the right thing and followed FIFA procedures and rules. Claims there is high level of discontent are out of context. FCI should put their efforts into helping the Matavera Club win some trophies. After 16 years the only thing they are at the top in is for losing, that's why their President is discontent. Clubs can't expect to win if they don't make the effort, discontent if any is their own and being jealous of a consistently winning club is simply very poor sportsman ship. Look at Puaikura, their new President who was the butt of criticism by FCI and the club worked very hard and smart and got good results last year for the first time. Throwing mud at others to divert attention away from the clubs internal problems isn't going to wash. MV has got egg on her face for backing the wrong trifecta; FCI has got egg on their face for their stupidity. Keep up the good work Lee and the team at CIFA.

Soccer Justice



Our frontpage model this week is 21 year old Kathleen Quijano. She currently works as a Customer service rep at Telecom Cook Islands. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
& THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PENSIONERS

In getting ready for the 2.5% VAT increase on 1 April 2014, from 1 March 2014 the local Cook Islands pension will increase by 25% for both the over 60 and over 70 categories.

	2013 regular social welfare payments		2014 regular social welfare payments	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
60-69 pension	400	4800	500	6000
70+ pension	500	6000	625	7500

To ensure fairness, and to direct the increased payment towards those most in need, from 1 March 2014 the local Cook Islands pension will also become part of your taxable income.

To help ensure that individuals receive the correct payments and are not left with tax debts at the end of the year, pensioners will **need to register their Revenue Management Division (RMD) number with the Ministry of Internal Affairs by 20 February 2014.**

If you do not have an RMD number, the Ministry of Internal Affairs can organise one for you – it's free and easy to do.

All other social welfare payments will also increase by 10% from 1 March 2014 but will not require you to register your RMD number.

When combined with the personal income tax cuts, every pensioner in 2014 (regardless of income level) will have more money in their hand than they did in 2013, which will assist in adjusting to the VAT change on 1 April 2014.

A tax calculator has been made available at www.mfem.gov.ck/tax for individuals to estimate how the changes may affect them.

Pensioners are encouraged to contact a Welfare Officer in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Rarotonga, or the Internal Affairs Officer in Pa Enea **before 20 February 2014.** There is a simple one page form required.

Local groups take Te Mato Vai concerns direct to NZ government

By Charles Pitt

Despite recent public consultations, there is growing public dissatisfaction and frustration with government's efforts to provide adequate information on the water project Te Mato Vai in terms of costs, alternative cheaper options, economic sustainability and user pays costs.

The concern is the project appears inflated in terms of expectations, estimates, size and therefore costs. With the funding from China and NZ fixed, any cost overruns will most likely have to be met by our government unless China and NZ agree to increase their contributions.

Critics calculate the water project will deliver around 622 litres per day per person on Rarotonga. The average daily use per person in Sydney is around 297 litres. The average in the USA, say critics, is 425 litres per person per day.

The likelihood is we will end up with a water system well in excess of that necessary for actual growth and a user pays system at a cost too great for the actual users to bear.

With no new hotels of any significance on the drawing board, revenues from tourism can be expected to flatten out. With no economic development of any significance in the export or commercial sector in sight, how will a falling population and tax base cope with increasing costs and repayment of the Chinese loan?

Local groups of concerned citizens are now taking their concerns directly to the New Zealand government and this week we highlight two approaches recently made to the NZ government. It appears these groups have no confidence in our

government's invitation to speak to Cabinet Ministers and officials direct.

Letter A: An open letter to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand

"We write to you as NZ aid of \$15 million is being used to initiate a \$64+ million project to at large replace the existing Rarotonga water system. The Proposed system is economically unsustainable, but is being driven by persons who want to leave grandiose legacies. It is in NZ terms another Mangawhai sewerage treatment project and in Rarotonga terms another Sheraton Hotel. It is generous of NZ to give such aid but we believe such generosity should not be used to initiate a disastrous outcome.

Rarotonga currently has over 60% of its 3,200 households using tank water which are regularly topped up, by the high rainfall. Many household tanks are small and also use mains supply to top up with. The main supply is fed by several dams, which do require upgrade and the pipe network that has sufficient capacity however, there is a very high leakage.

Rather than survey the pipes and repair the pipes and promote greater household and business use of tanks and roof water, the government has chosen to embark on a grandiose scheme that replaces the vast majority of the existing system for in excess of \$64 million and increases operational costs massively. Our own detailed estimates of demand give around 2,100 cubic meters of water required per day, where the grandiose scheme calls for 11,200cbm per day. We have been told water meters cost \$750 yet the proposal allows nearly \$1,200 a meter and

allocates \$12.38 million to other projects. In the proposal, neither the operational costs nor the costs to the users have been identified.

Opposition to the government proposal is growing, and petitions are being circulated, but the proposed water scheme continues to be rushed through.

We ask that, as a condition of the NZ Aid money, you;

i) Request alternative schemes be investigated and costed including the repair of the existing pipe system and better household tank utilization.

ii) Establish the cost (including operation costs) per litre to the user, and establish who is paying that cost.

Trusting NZ Aid will be used for an economically sustainable future."

Letter B: To the NZ High Commissioner Rarotonga 4 February 2014

"Te Mato Vai Project
Kia Orana

We act for the landowners of the land where it is proposed to upgrade water intakes as part of the Te Mato Vai Project (the Project). The intakes involved are called Taipara and Totokoitu. The proposed work is extensive and will involve construction of major water reservoirs. Other of our clients own the land upon which access is gained to the water intakes and where trunk lines are installed to carry water from the intakes to the main pipes on the main road.

It has become clear to us that the Project is being rushed, seemingly from every angle. The recent public meetings called specifically for those landowners who control the 13 water intakes left the clear impression that the intention is to move forward and expect the various landowners to "give" rights to their land and to the water sources on that land.

Our client's instructions are to oppose any such attempts. The Crown or any Crown owned enterprise would of necessity be required to negotiate with our clients and all other landowners in respect of land and water rights for each of the thirteen land titles involved. The only viable options are (i) taking rights by Warrant or (ii) negotiating for long term leases. In both instances competent valuations are required by law.

It is our view that the present circumstances create a David and Goliath situation. The Crown, bolstered by tens of millions of dollars of aid money and concessional loans will have, in essence, unlimited access to legal counsel. The Taipara and Totokoitu land which encompasses the two water intakes are owned by two persons, both in their 80s. They are hardly in a position to fund what may well become expensive litigation and valuations if the Project continues to be "bulldozed" both figuratively and literally.

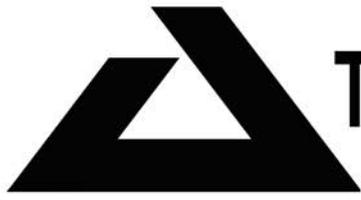
Very large families, most of who will be offshore, will own some of the other eleven water intakes. What almost always happens in that situation is that one or two of the owners living on Rarotonga will retain legal assistance and be liable for payment. It is rare for such owners to recover their outlay of money from the other owners.

Our point is that NZ, inadvertently, may be funding Goliath and we ask NZ to consider finding a source of money to be made available to assure that the Cook Islands landowners, without whose land the Project would be impossible, have access to independent legal assistance going forward.

We seek your preliminary response."



NOTE JAMES BEER for MURIENUA



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Beer on the economy, Tuariki shuns the media

Questions were put to the Murienua by election candidates regarding the economy. CIP candidate Kaota Tuariki maintains his cone of silence and refusal to accept free time on Radio Cook Islands to debate or answer questions from the public or media. Demo Party's James Beer has responded.

Last week Tourism held a public forum related to their industry. Got any ideas for the sister islands?

Our sister islands need promoting, Aitutaki and Atiu have capacity that must be maximised. Government should subsidise Air Raro's fuel based on an agreement that reduces fares by 50%. More tourists will be encouraged to visit them as off the track and echo tourism destinations with the added attraction the sister islands being legislated as 100% organic. I would promote them as "Discover the jewels of outback Cook Islands".

There is a niche market for tourists who aren't interested in commercialised destinations but desire authentic cultural experiences. PNG is a thriving echo tourist destination. Let's reduce the cost of getting them to our outback for those experiences.

The Northern Group Islands can become more accessible especially for recreational fishermen and out back echo experiences if Air Raro can find a way to service them from Samoa again with a Government fuel subsidy. Under the Polynesian Leaders Group there must be a way to negotiate a way forward with the Samoa government.

Concerning tourism in general, I'm concerned government keeps raising the cost of doing business. The increase in VAT will be detrimental to tourism. We'll be forced to charge five star prices in exchange for a lesser star service, dissatisfied customers tell 12 times more people than satisfied ones. This taxing government is rendering the destination beyond being affordable for the average NZ traveller who will find it a lot cheaper to go to Fiji, Vanuatu, the Gold Coast and even Bali. We are at risk of losing repeats from first time visitors. The sleeping giant that could become a real threat to our



James Beer

destination is Tonga. One day Halutoa might get poached by them at our expense.

What are your thoughts on the Air New Zealand underwrite?

I like the idea of giving away seats as part of a marketing and promotional strategy to get visitors here to spend their money. If the seats are subsidised why allow them to come here empty? I think the Canadian market has great potential and talks with the likes of West Jet may be worthwhile.

You are promoting the Demo tax policy but any thoughts of your own?

I would simply do away with personal income taxes altogether and reduce VAT to 10%. I would save money the old fashion way by simply spending less. Instead of a \$200 million budget, a reduction by \$35 million a year till it levels off at a capped budget of \$130,000, and then we live within our means, its called prudence. The DP are still doing the numbers on the non tax threshold, the increase of \$1000 is an insult to low income earners.

Licenses for foreign activities can be increased to boost lower tax revenues. There are many areas of spending that can be reviewed and readjusted. Government service fees can be minimised to reduce the cost of doing commercial business. I would move from being a tax driven economy to a development economy underpinned by reduced energy costs. If the seabed minerals promises ever get materialised there would be no need of taxes of any form.

Do you agree with NZ selling their Telecom Cook Islands shares to Digicel?

The CIP government's intention to sell half our 40% TCI shares to Digicel is an absolute disgrace. Puna and Brown have no right to do that. We should be given the first option of buying out NZ, if they want to sell one of our nations family jewels without consulting the owners, the people of the Cook Islands then they should go to the polls and test their mandate. Last year Digicel had their funds (\$US30million) in place from a European Union source. Our Superannuation Fund has about \$70 million in it, if it requires legislation to use some of those funds to buy out NZ ownership so be it. TCI pays a dividend of \$6 million to its shareholders.

Government can then sell their 40% to the private sector. As digital technology advances further I would phase out landlines, shedding superseded technology, the portability and convergence of telecommunications will increase TCI profitability plus allow for reduced consumer costs, a win, win for shareholders and consumers.

Mark Brown's tact to sell off half of our TCI shares to Digicel for instant cash to balance the terrible state of treasury's accounts, a dumb lazy short term solution instead of making the effort to find a solution to use one of the country's

continued next page

from previous page economic pillars to help drive a development based economy. If this is Brown's level of fiscal mentality, what's his plan when he's run out of the people's assets to sell? Brown looks more and more like a boy trying to do a man's job and at the tax payer's expense.

The Te Mato Vai Project has become an emotive issue confronting Government what would you do differently?

There needs to be a lot more transparency with a lot more factual information rather than basing the project on assumptions. A lack of preparedness by government has resulted in the consultations being rushed without accurate information being available for public consumption. The public and the land owners should be allowed to make informed decisions but are frustrated when their questions can't be answered, to expect the public to make rushed ill informed decisions is immoral and deceptive. This project is going to deliver an unprecedented amount of money into the country and it's my concern that as little as possible leaves us. Locals must be given maximum

opportunity to financial benefit from TMV. Foreigners must not be allowed to reap a windfall at the expense of local contractors and workers. Some form of compensation must be made to the land owners.

Political Reform?

Public reform must go hand in hand with public sector reform. Rarotonga and Aitutaki must have reduced constituencies, for example Aitutaki is a single constituency that has two MPs. Rarotonga can become three constituencies based upon the Vaka districts represented by more than one MP determined by a population capping who are voted for collectively.

For example the individual can vote for up to three or four candidates who combined represent the whole district. This lessens the control and outcome influence big families have in the existing constituencies which can result in better quality candidates. If I had more space I could fill up another page on how I would reform the public service including the politician's appointments and budgets to the tune of \$15 million and counting.

10 Commandments of holding an election campaign:

The Candidates and their committee:

1. **Thou shalt not** campaign or visit or make telephone calls to electors after 6pm on the eve of election day.
2. **Thou shalt not** have campaign signage, public broadcasting or any other such campaign materials on display after 6pm on the eve of an election.
3. **Thou shalt not** offer treats or sumptuous foods for free at any time leading up to election day or on election day.
4. **Thou shalt not** drive to electors homes to take electors to their puna head quarters on election day before the elector has cast their vote.
5. **Thou shalt not** offer massages or money or fish to any voter leading up to election day.
6. **Thou shalt not** offer a ride to the polling booth and then during the ride influence in any way an elector to vote or not to vote for any candidate.
7. **Thou shalt not** stand or loiter at the polling station whether a candidate or an elector except in a queue awaiting to cast thou vote.
8. **Thou shalt not** have campaign head quarters in full view of a public place on election day until after the poll has closed.
9. **Thou shalt not** offer jobs or any such bribes for the purpose of gaining that electors vote or not to vote.
10. **Thou shalt not** vote in any election of that puna if thou is not registered or has not resided in that puna for 3 months prior to an election.

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Police raids opens a Pandora's box

Confidentialities and secrets in the Cook Islands have a way of being disseminated by coconut wireless far and wide with more broadband than Telecom. Being a weekly publication scoops are often lost to the daily paper so before they get this first, we do.

On Monday 3 February two New Zealand Serious Fraud Officers and two Rarotonga Police Officers arrived unannounced in Aitutaki with warrants to search the former Marine Resources Minister Teina Bishop's residence and businesses. Equipment and property was removed by the investigating team. Almost simultaneously other premises on Rarotonga including Bishop's ministerial offices were searched with property removed. Forms of communication were targeted to isolate each place plus individuals from contacting each other.

Since the raid Bishop has no access to his email to send or receive. Business associates and Ministry contacts are being frustrated email sent to Bishop is being blocked, in the mean time his business suffers and his Ministry duties are disrupted.

During the week as the net was cast wider, further warrants were issued by the Court and several premises including BTIB were visited resulting in the

removal of items of interest to the investigators led by Andrew Saunders the husband of Crown Law head Kim Saunders.

A source has indicated some of the information extracted from confiscated files suggests there are other matters attracting the interest of the NZ investigators. The fishing expedition as Bishop's lawyer Tony Manarangi calls it may have just unearthed unrelated incriminating evidence. These matters are quite separate from the information being sort for the allegations of corruption by Bishop. Files found are being separated for further investigation that is understood to involve a Taiwan fishing company and a local group prior to Bishop's time as Minister of Marine Resources.

Another source claims Bishop was given files and information by fishing company Executives at an unscheduled meeting with him when visiting Taiwan as the MMRS Minister. Bishop reviewed the contents on his return and advised the Taiwanese company to pursue their issues with the local group as a civil matter.

The files detail financial transactions and money transfers from Taiwan that may become of some interest to the local Police and the Financial Intelligence Unit, the NZ contingent is interested in the Bank transfers



Minister Teina Bishop still has no email connection as they occurred in NZ.

The Taiwanese had previously laid a complaint against the Cook Island company but the local investigation failed to compile enough evidence to lay charges. Information in the confiscated files from Bishop's office appears to contain material that may result in the former investigation being reopened.

While search warrants are specific as to the objects of the investigation there is an obligation by Police to report discovery or

seizure of unrelated evidence suspected of being linked to criminal offending. Brett Porter's companies Apex Agencies Ltd and Toa Petroleum were also included in the warrant's search list.

A suggestion Chinese identity Huanan Fishery (Cook Islands) Company may lose their BTIB Foreign Enterprise Registration if they fail to cooperate with the investigation is likely to be pursued by the investigators as leverage to provide information.

- George Pitt

Teriu Woonton from the 2014 Media Summit

A project initiated by PACMAS, funded by the Australian Government, managed by the ABC International Development and implemented by APIDAE produced entirely by high school students from Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji was displayed at the 2014 Pacific Media Summit on day one. The Project called A2C2 (Action against Climate Change) is basically a production piece covering the 3 media platforms- television, radio and print, focusing on Climate change. Altogether, 85 school students

from the respective countries produced 21 different media clips, only 3 were presented at the Media Summit. Themes were selected by each island's Government on the key climate change issues in their country and students based their assignment on that. The students representing their National Country presented their media clips on behalf of their work groups. Mr. Shivneel Narayan from USP in Fiji who presented a clip on Water and Climate Change in Tuvalu says, "the most interesting part of the project for me was that I got to interview the Tuvalu Prime Minister for this project! Also the project is

produced entirely by the students, and it may be focused on the same theme which is climate change, but each assignment is done differently and I think if we have more of that, then more young people will be interested in this". The second presentation was done by 15 year old Louisa Tovi'o from Samoa who produced a radio documentary on Radio Polynesia in Samoa on Rivers and Water Management, Louisa says the experience given was a real eye-opener, given she had no idea about Rivers and Water Management, "after this project, I just learnt so much new information and I now know so

much about Climate Change" she says. Eighteen year old Mariah Nasak from Vanuatu on the other hand, had a fair idea about Climate Change before volunteering to take part in the project, but the amount of motivation and willingness from other students around the Pacific to learn about Climate change, she says was a real shock, "it was amazing to see how involved the students were in the project, they were very active and vocal and we didn't have a choice on topics given, but we all worked hard and came up with something amazing" she says. Mariah presented a video clip on Gender and Climate Change in Vanuatu.



NOTE JAMES BEER for MURIENUA

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Letter to the Editor

Sale of telecom shares

Dear Editor I was very alarmed and concerned to read the comments of Leader of the Opposition, Wilkie Rasmussen, on the Democratic Party plans to nationalise Telecom Cook Islands (TCI) by a takeover of the 60% shares held by TC New Zealand.

This statement by Wilkie Rasmussen in Saturdays Cook Islands News should be a wakeup call for the people of this country because the last time the Democratic Party government tried to nationalise the fuel industry we ended up with TOAGATE. The taxpayers are still paying \$1.2 million a year as ordered by the courts for that particular Demo fiasco.

What really concerned me however was the plan by Wilkie to use taxpayer funds (maybe \$10 to \$20 million dollars) to buy 60% of Telecom and then sell it to "Cook Islanders". Editor, the only Cook Islanders that would have spare cash sitting around to buy shares in TCI are the wealthy Cook Islanders. I ask how will everyday grassroots people be able to afford shares? So is it Wilkie's plan is to use taxpayer funds to buy TNZN shares and then sell them to those who can afford to buy the shares? Of course anyone investing in shares will want to earn a good return on their investment. Can Wilkie tell us how he will be able to reduce costs for the everyday consumer if his wealthy friends will still expect to be get a good financial return on their investment? This whole Demo policy for our telecommunications sector just reeks of TOAGATE.

I also note the letter to the Editor by William Framhein accusing me of being "deficient" on my thinking. I was also accused of being rude and undignified because I cancelled an appointment with him. Mr Framhein

conveniently forgets that we had already scheduled a meeting which would include a Skype hookup with his Australian business partner on the previous on Thursday at 11 am. However he called on the same day to postpone the meeting to Friday because he was unable to make it. I then scheduled our meeting for Friday at 11 am but was then requested earlier in the day by the PM to do our Friday radio show at the same time because he was laid up with the flu. My office then contacted William and advised him of the last minute commitment that I had and requested a reschedule to the following week. It seems he can cancel appointments without blame but I get to be accused in the daily newspaper of being rude for doing the same thing as him.

If William wants to buy the TCNZ shares then I suggest he talks to TCNZ and make an offer for their shares. If he has the financing support from his overseas investors then I am sure TCNZ will consider their offer. But do not expect the taxpayers of this country to bankroll or guarantee the purchase of privately held shares in a NZ listed public company. That is not the role of government. The government role remains in regulation and the government remains committed to bringing the new Telecommunications Bill before the house as soon as possible.

Mr Editor this telecommunications policy by the Demos is poorly thought out and is as shockingly wasteful as their newly released tax policy which will cost the country millions of dollars. I will write more on this matter in my next letter.

*Kia Manuia
Mark Brown
Minister for
Telecommunications*

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Introducing Android Phones



Cont'd...

Tip 6: Perform Factory Reset

If the phone gets really clogged up and the user has trouble using it at all, it may be time for a system restore. This is a tip that should only be used as a last resort. Restoring the phone to its factory settings will delete all of the downloaded and saved files on the phone, so the user loses a lot of information. Users can restore their phones to the factory settings by opening up the "Menu," then clicking on "Settings," then clicking on "Privacy," and then clicking "Factory Data Reset." Select the option to "Reset Phone," and confirm to have the phone erase everything that has been added to it. This will only erase the information that has been added to the phone by the user. The phone's operating system will still be intact and ready to use. It will basically be in the same state it was when you first received it.

Conclusion

The Android smartphone uses a free operating system from Google to perform all the processes and functions users need. These phones also allow users to download software, media, and surf the web. Sometimes, these extra activities can slow a phone down, and overload its memory. Users have a number of options to restore the phone to its peak performance, and none of these tips require much technical expertise. Users can close background processes and software, delete unused apps and media, and even download and install memory management software. These tips can quickly improve a phone's performance. If all else fails, users are able to restore the phone to its factory settings and completely erase all saved data. This improves speed and opens up a lot of memory. When all else fails and the Android smartphone no longer functions at an acceptable level, head to The Computer Man to purchase a new one.

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... talk about a “Political dumb-cluck?”

By Howard Henry

The people of Murienua go to the polls next week to select a new Member of Parliament in a by-election.

Right now : the result of that by-election is too close to call.

C.I.P. or Demo? ... it could go either way.

If the Demo’s win and James Beer becomes the new MP, then that result would be a major boost to the Democratic Party in the count-down to the General Election later in the year.

If the C.I.P. lose this seat, then that will set “alarm bells ringing” within their ranks. It will mean three by-elections and three losses in the last two years. Hardly a confidence booster with a General Election due later in the year.

If the Demo’s lose this by-election, then all is not lost for them. They have certainly increased their core vote in this constituency and so can take heart that their party will certainly be very competitive in this constituency come General Election time.

If Kaota does win this seat, then the C.I.P. will breathe a huge sigh of relief. If they can hold on and retain Murienua, then the C.I.P. is still in with a “fighting chance” on Rarotonga later in the year. And of course, whoever “wins” Rarotonga will “win” the General Election.

Whatever the result maybe in Murienua, it will not change the Government. It won’t even

destablise the Government. But that result will give a very good indication as to where the voters on Rarotonga are sitting right now as the country prepares to go into election mode for the rest of the year.

In a “Letter to the Editor” in last weeks Cook Islands Herald, the Leader of the Opposition said quote :

1. “I take issue with Howard Henry’s claim in his article last week that the current opposition is the weakest and most ineffective from any of the others.

2. “Come on Howard, what do you know about politics anyway? Your grandfather knew about politics, not you.”

In his article of the same issue, the Leader of the Opposition writes at great length about Article 64 (1) (d&e) of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964 which talks about “Freedom of thought ... Freedom of speech and expression” as being fundamental human rights and freedoms for all Cook Islanders.

In my article last week, I expressed my opinion, as guaranteed to me the right to do so, under Article 64 (1) (d&e) of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964, that the current Opposition in Parliament is the weakest Opposition this country has had in the last 49 years.

In response to that statement, the Leader of the Opposition got all sulky, packed a big sad, spat out the dummy and then

wrote : “Howard, what do you know about politics anyway? Your grandfather knew about politics, not you.” (so shut-up) ... as if to suggest that I am a real “political dumb-cluck”.

But I stand by that statement that the current Opposition is the weakest Opposition this country has had in the last 49 years. The reason the Opposition is so weak is because the Leader of the Democratic Party is the weakest Leader of the Opposition this country has ever known ... for nearly 50 years.

One just needs to try and read his weekly mumblings in the Cook Islands Herald for proof to see that my observation, and opinion, has excellent merit. There is a “political dumb-cluck” running around here in the Cook Islands ... and it ain’t me!

If the Democratic Party had a different leader, then James Beer would “romp in on a landslide” at Murienua. But that won’t happen because the leader of the Demo’s ... is the Demo’s biggest political handicap – because of his weakness.

For the Democratic Party to currently have the weakest Leader of the Opposition this country has ever had, has turned out to be a “secret political weapon for Kaota and the C.I.P.” Every time the Demo leader opens his mouth in public, the C.I.P. popularity goes up 2 percentage points.

No wonder so many people in the Democratic Party “secretly” want their leader to be Norman (the Destroyer) George. So hurry up and give the “poor bugger” his Demo Membership Card. Put the “old boy” out of his misery.

Soon after Norman gets that card, there is going to be a “mouth-watering political punch-up” between he and the Leader of the Opposition over who will be the Leader of the Democratic Party. What an awesome “political fist-fight” that is going to be.

The “Destroyer” vs The “Destroyee”.

I am willing to pay money just to sit in the grandstand to watch those two slug it out.

For the last General Election, the Leader of the Opposition won his seat on Penrhyn by a 10 vote majority over the Independent candidate Willie John. For that campaign, Willie did not try very hard at all. He just stood to gain a little political experience. And he nearly won.

However, for the 2014 General Election, I have been told that Willie John now wants to get serious. He is extremely keen to stand in Penrhyn for the C.I.P.. Should that come to pass, then I am sure that Willie John will stand up and “wipe the floor” with their current MP and so Penrhyn will get a fresh, energized, credible and a brand new member of Parliament.

Such is my level of confidence this is going to happen, that I have already written the current MP’S ... “political Obituary”.

Isn’t it great to see that freedom of speech, thought and expression is alive, well and kicking strongly in this country.

But there is a line that has to be drawn somewhere.

For the Leader of the Opposition to pull up ‘my grandfather’ and then use “his memory” as a “weapon” to try and slap me around the ears and publically humiliate and embarrass me in his letter to the editor was a sarcastic, “smart-alec” thing to do.

As a part-time journalist, I can take criticism like anyone else. But when that critic uses Papa Arapati and his memory to try and belittle and shame me the way the Demo leader has done, then I am not going to take that sort of “nonsense” lying down ... even from a “political dumb-cluck”.

So I have responded in what I have written above.

Why did I do this? Because Wilkie Rasmussen ... “he asked for it.”

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Memories of my fallen MP friends

By Norman George MP for Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

Last week, we laid to rest two of our founding fathers, former Ministers and Members of Parliament, Papa Inatio Akaruau and Papa Kura Strickland.

Make no mistake about it, these gentlemen deserve our eternal respect and accolades. They were men of dedication, devotion and deep patriotism to their people and country.

I took time to reflect on my fallen peers, these are M.Ps. I actually served with in Parliament, a total of 29 of them have passed on. Aunty Mau, Jim Marurai and I are the last three of that era, but with me approaching 31 years of service in Parliament. I have served with them all with a greater length of time.

I want to share with you in this column some fond memories of these founding fathers. The mischief, the rabble rousing, the good and bad habits and some historic moments.

In order to be fair and without rating their order of importance, I will do it alphabetically. The dates of their passing will not be mentioned.

Inatio Akaruru, is a truly dedicated Cook Islands Party stalwart. He will do anything for Sir Geoffery Henry, his leader. He was truly a "yes Prime Minister" Man to his P.M. and not an opposition P.M.

He was a very frugal man, very strict on spending. When I inherited his office as DPM, we had to pay overdue telephone and electricity bills, Inatio was so frugal he only budgeted about \$500 a month to cover his costs. His staff had trouble making ends meet.

In House debates, Inatio's regular adversary was the Member for Oneroa, Matepi Matepi. Matepi at one time got so carried away that he called him, "Inatitio". Tough, robust, Inatio will never back down. He was not afraid to take on myself and Vincent Ingram, a nasty rugged debater.

I will put on record that my friend Inatio was the biggest eater in the dining room of Parliament. He ate twice as much as anyone else. I was told that he was so tight with spending that he would eat to cover both lunch and dinner together, to save spending money on dinner. He can afford to overeat because he never put on weight.

For the record, the noisiest eater I know in Parliament is alive and well and living in Sydney. He is former M.P. for Penrhyn Nihi Vini. Give him fish, taro and coconut sauce, you can hear him a mile away. It did not matter that he was surrounded by other people, my friend Nihi showed how to enjoy food the traditional way.

Laveta Arthur held the overseas seat twice. It was not until smoking Joe Williams, Dr Joe as we fondly call him, came along that put an end to Laveta's days in Parliament.

He was the greatest gossip in the House and seems to be the first to know of any secret love affairs lingering in the bushes. Sexual subjects dominated my friend Veta's jokes and one liners.

He was forever trying to capture overseas travels. I took him to Bangkok once on a UNDP Conference trip. I believe he also travelled to Australia and Canada on CPA (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) conferences.

Like some current Ministers and M.Ps. my friend tended to place self interest ahead of the needs of his electorate. But with the overseas seat having unlimited boundaries, he did not feel obligated to answer to anyone. He was a devoted Democratic Party man.

Ngatupuna David, M.P. for Mitiaro was a quietly spoken man. As a career former public servant, he behaved like a public servant in Cabinet, bureaucratic, unmoving, unsympathetic and strict. When I was raising finance to build the current BCI building, he behaved like your worst bank Manager. He was

responsible for the Post Office Savings Bank then. I managed to persuade him that the funds were not for me personally but for the BCI building – he grilled me as though I was personally borrowing the money for myself.

Papa Sir Thomas Davis, together with Papa Arapati Henry, the two men could be said to be the joint first founding fathers of this nation. Brilliant, clear thinking, dominating, analytical and ever willing to give a hearty laugh.

Despite his brilliance he was not always politically astute. He fell out badly with Vincent Ingram right from the start.

He made some bad decisions. He took back Islands Foods from Greggs of Dunedin in the early 1980s without securing the Raro Brand name which was very popular in New Zealand. We continued to market orange juice and pineapple juice under the Captain Cook label, but this turned into lemon and failed.

His management of the economy was excellent; he



introduced the early version of the VAT then called Turnover Tax and introduced the Cost of Living adjustments which the government paid out every 6 months.

Next week – Major crises which brought an end to Papa Toms political career.

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Run raises funds for Cook Islands soccer players attending Mt Albert Grammar School



Organisers Robyn and Steph are seated front left.

By Charles Pitt

Last Saturday Tereora College students staged a run around Rarotonga to raise funds to assist three of their soccer playing friends who are attending Mt Albert Grammar School in Auckland, two of them are on a soccer scholarship.

The Grammar boys are Pekay Edwards (ex-Tereora), Wiremu Temata (ex-Titikaveka College) and Teariki Matenga (ex-Tereora).

The Students raised just under \$1,600 during their run and each boy will receive \$450.

Robyn Moetaua and Stephanie Nooroa were the ones who instigated the fundraiser and they presented

the money to Puaikura Football Club President Jnr Areai at CITV on Monday afternoon. Jnr will pass the money on.

The students thank all those who kindly donated and special thanks go to Uncle Scotty and Auntie Jane of Rehab Bar and Rehab bus driver Eric Taringa.

On behalf of CIFA, Areai thanked the students who took part in the run to raise money. He also thanked Robyn and Stephanie for their initiative. The runners were;

Teiti Tupuna, Jarves Aperau, Dwayne Taio, Albert Taru, Teara Ama, Conroy Taio, Rossanna Maoate, Clara Poesken and Mr and Mrs Temata.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF

Vacancies exist for the following part time positions:

1. Teacher Aide (Inclusive Education)
 - Apii Te Uki Ou (2 positions)
 - Rutaki School (1 position)
 - Takitumu School (1 position)
 2. Teacher Aide (ECE) – 2 positions
 - Arorangi School
 - Omoka School, Penrhyn
 3. Grounds/Maintenance position: Avatea School
 4. Receptionist (Fulltime): Ministry of Education, Nikao
- Applications close on Friday 14 February 2014. Job descriptions available from the Ministry or at: www.education.gov.ck Please submit a cover letter with Curriculum Vitae and references to:
Director HRM Division
P.O Box 97
Rarotonga
Cook Islands
Ph (682) 29357, Fax (682) 28357 or email vacancy@education.gov.ck

Cook Islands
HERALD
PMG
PITT MEDIA GROUP

CITV Building
Moss Road
Parekura, Rarotonga
PO Box 126 Rarotonga
Tel: (682) 29 460
Fax: (682) 21 907
E mail: bestread@ciherald.co.ck
www.ciherald.co.ck

Editor: Charles L. Pitt
Columnist:
Norma Ngatamariki
Graphic Artist: Nga Glassie
Accounts/Deliveries:
Te Riu Woonton

How to solve your problems

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In life many people have difficulties solving problems and challenges they face. In the Old Testament Book of Isaiah 37v.14-20, is the story of King Hezekiah of the Jewish people who reigned from Jerusalem. During this time the King of Assyria was destroying cities and was taking control over them, and the Assyrian army was closing in on Jerusalem. As news of the might of the Assyrian army and their King reached King Hezekiah, he was troubled. I believe we feel like this sometimes when trouble comes our way. Hezekiah knew that the magnitude of this problem is beyond his human ability to overcome. He knew that even with his own army he will not be able to defeat the enemy.

From verses 14-15 of this scripture reading we will learn 4 important lessons on how King Hezekiah dealt with this negative situation. From verse 16-20 is Hezekiah's prayer to God. The question is "What did Hezekiah do?" The answer is....

1. He went to the House of the Lord.

2. He prayed immediately.

3. He spread his problems before the Lord.

4. He prayed right through (until the problem is resolved).

Let us look at these points separately.

1. He went to the House of the Lord.

In others Hezekiah went to Church. Too many people when they're in trouble they run away from the Church. Even when they have indifferences with another Brother or another Sister, or even with the Pastor they run away. I encourage you to come to the House of the Lord whenever you're experiencing difficulties in your life. Psalm 9v.9 reads "The Lord is a refuge for the

oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble." When you're in trouble you can't be saved or helped by staying home or running away. Come to the House of the Lord! Psalm 2v.12 reads "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."

2. He prayed immediately.

The first thing Hezekiah did was, He went to the House of the Lord, fell on his knees, and then Prayed Immediately. He did not make enquiries to some Deacons, or another Brother or Sister, but rather He Prayed Immediately! Friend, this too should be our attitude, Pray Immediately! Too often we have an enquiring mind – "Why is it like this?" "What if this happened?" Hezekiah didn't waste time, "He prayed immediately!"

3. He spread his problems before the Lord.

Hezekiah brought his problem before the Lord. He didn't go to Mary or to Tom, or to Jerry, but rather to the Lord! Those who were Sick spread their problem to the Lord Jesus Christ and they were healed! Likewise with the Blind and their sight was restored and they could see! The Lepers spread their problem before Jesus and they were cleansed! The Sinners came to Jesus and confessed their sins and they were forgiven and their sins forgotten! To whom are you spreading your problems to, is it to the Lord, or to your mates...Tom and Jerry.

4. He prayed right through (until the problem is resolved).

Finally, Hezekiah prayed right through until the problem is resolved! We too should adopt this attitude of Hezekiah – pray

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



without ceasing! The Apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 5v.17 said "Pray without ceasing!" Continue up-holding your problems to the Lord in prayer. James 4v.7 said "...submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.."

There are 3 things Hezekiah did not do....

i) He did not run away from the problem. Too often when problems come we run

away. Be like Hezekiah and don't run away!

ii) He did not impose threads upon his enemies. But instead he brought his problem and spread it in front of the Lord.

iii) He did not look for pity partners to feel sorry for him!

May this message encourage you in solving your problems. God bless!

What makes a leader?

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hey, everyone! I trust that all of the students out there survived their second week of school. Yes, it's been a harsh week filled with endless amounts of homework and harassment by teachers... but that's just an average day. For this week's article, I've decided to talk about something that's outside of my comfort zone: Leadership. This is a topic that would normally scare off a teenager because it's associated with things like 'responsibility', 'maturity' and all that other stuff. But guess what? That ain't all there is to it. Being a leader is so much more than being an ideal role model.

The hype of being selected as Student Leader (which is like a Prefect, it's just that they've changed the name) has not died down for some, after a vigorous training session which took place in the Princess Anne Hall. Out of the entire 53 students present on the day, only 16 would be chosen to lead Tereora College to greatness. Now, who exactly

would be part of that 'Super 16'? That's the big question that everybody was asking. And, if I'm going to be completely honest, I was as curious as the rest of them.

For some, the training session meant two extra days out of the classroom, but for others, it was an opportunity to show off their leadership potential. Thomas Wynn and Nga Teinangaro were assigned the difficult task of scouting these kinds of people. I have to say, there were a lot of students who stood out from the rest and others just blended into the background. We were allocated into two different groups and then we got busy on the activities. A few of those activities were really thought-provoking and required a lot of brain power, such as the discussions of leadership; what makes a fabulous leader? What are the expectations of a leader?

My personal favourite was the 'Land Mine' game (Don't worry, they weren't real land mines). This activity was based on the trustworthiness of another's

peers. Basically, you have to guide your blindfolded team mate through an area of "land mines" (We used cones. Much safer) without touching any of the mines or the opponent (Did I mention that they were blindfolded?). Man, that was a really intense game. It got a little rowdy every now and again, but it was soon brought back under control. In the end, my team prevailed. Woop woop!

To end that fantastic training session, we had a little Wearable Arts Competition. We had to dress up our models using cellotape, staples, raffia and a whole bunch of newspaper. Pretty innovative, huh? My team decided on a "Katy-Perry-meets-Rihanna" look (You know, with the cupcake boobs and all). Our model was all for it, so away we went. The catch was we had to complete the outfit in under 30 minutes. Within 15 minutes, our fabulous creation was ready to be shown off to the others.

Don't think we were just there for fun. I actually learned



a few things during that time. As I mentioned before, when the word 'Leader' popped up, things like 'Ideal Role Model' and 'Impeccable' immediately came into mind. Fair enough. A leader should be all those things, but in reality, nobody is perfect. Perfection in every single aspect in your life is simply unattainable. But that doesn't stop a leader from trying his or her best.

Poetry

By Tiarn Brown

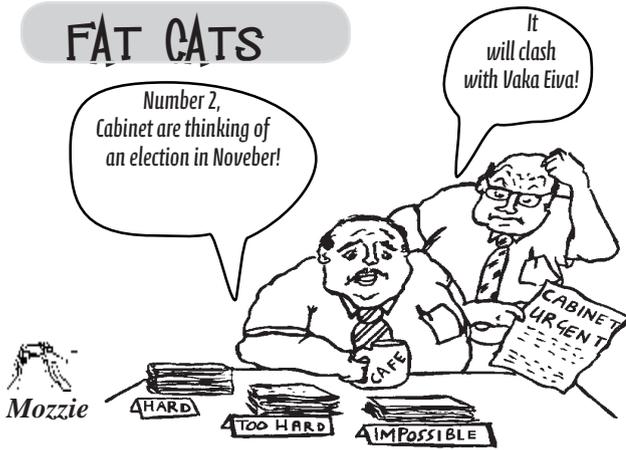
This new journey

This new journey ahead, a road you must go for
 A road that will lead you to success and further more
 A struggle you are willing to face and go at head strong
 To realise that life has more than one right and one wrong
 Like living in a new world, you ought to aim to be the best
 Because the sky is the limit, be better than all the rest
 Go hard or go home, that's how you should think
 Watching everything carefully and not wanting to blink
 Because blinking may cause you to miss your once in a lifetime shot
 It's better to be genuine and real rather than someone you're not
 It isn't about who's come and who's gone, it's about who's stayed by your side
 All those people that you can trust and not worry about having to hide
 Your reward will come, it's written in black and white
 Even if it comes down to war and having to fight
 You fight for what you want don't let it slip by
 Aim for the stars and reach for the sky
 Dreams come true, life's what you make so just make it right
 Because in a world full of darkness there's always light
 They say what you see may be conflicting and deceiving
 They say dreams are for sleeping yet dreaming is believing
 We all have a dream and that's no lie
 The sky's the limit so just fly

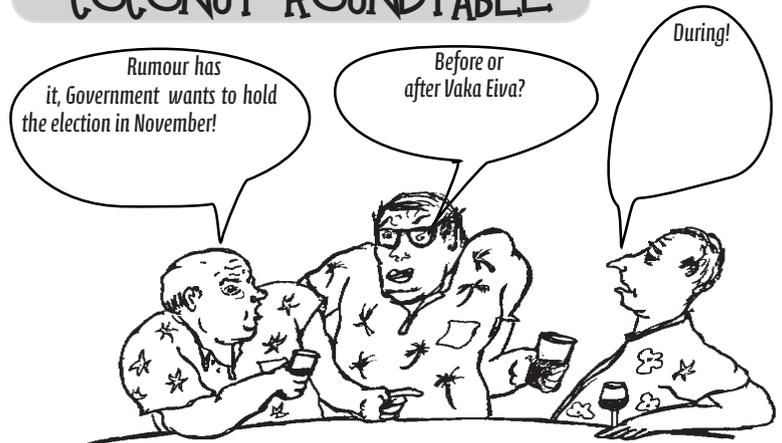


Tiarn Brown is a student at Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland, New Zealand

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



It seems all Elvis Puna's platitudes about rebuilding the arson destroyed schools have faded into the distant sunset. Just like the Pretender's New Year's pledge to reimburse the Grey Power member's raided bank accounts just a lot of hot air. Word is government has received a quote to rebuild the Avatea Primary School and it was from a local as well, a cool \$17 million. What the heck, the local must of though, government likes to talk in millions so he multiplied the draft quote six times. No need to build new class rooms, Avatea can have the portable buildings being assembled for the workers from China when the finish their Te Mao Vai contract.

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED

Word on CNN-Coconut Network News, is the bearded rooster Tim Tepaki is still crowing the cops have nothing on his cousin the Bishop, because if they did they would have laid charges by now. According to the bearded wonder the Bishop baited the fishers who fabricated charges against him and will haul them in soon for tunutunu on the BBQ, whatever that means.

Spotted by local chooks on a bright sunny Monday morning, cycling fitness promoter Drett Borter, pedaling furiously along the main road! Watch out for diesel fuelled vehicles belching

black smoke Drett! Talk about unprovoked attacks on tourists chooks, one local couldn't wait for a tourist to check into her hotel-she attacked one at the airport on Sunday night shortly after the tourist stepped out of customs! A local woman brandishing a stick was seen earlier walking up and down outside the terminal then, she walked behind the female tourist and wacked her across the back. Police and security wallahs began scouring the security camera footage while the poor tourist with a painful back struggled off to her hotel. Seems this case was more one of lack of resources being put into the area of mental health rather than a petty crime issue.

Oh dear chooks! New captain at the helm of SS Daily, Bark de Fray, barely landed in the hot seat when he shot himself in the foot! Announcing that he did not print a letter because it contained personal attacks on someone, he proceeded to print a letter which did just that! Perhaps it's because the letter opened singing the

praises of the daily! Engineers popping up from Kiwiland to check out the cracks in the wharf at Avatiu arrive this week! Government is keeping this hush hush chooks. Will the media be allowed to follow the technical team about? Forget it! Can't embarrass the ADB while all the Donor lot are in town! Pity the two official fellows from the land of the great wall who arrived in country this week. Seems these two are diplomatically, quite lowly on the rankings table so have to pretty much fend for themselves!

Cabinet Ministers and the donor tere party head for Atiu Wednesday for a nose about! Tricky problem with who should chair the meetings, the Mayor Super Brown or the local MP Dandy Nandi, was resolved when Brownie, Emperor of the Moolah, stepped in and declared he will chair proceedings!

And how's this for a great deal chooks! The EU Ambassador gives our Finance Wallah Brown over \$2 million

and our Finance Wallah Brown gives the EU Ambassador a specially minted \$5 Cook Islands coin! Fair exchange?

First Mate on the SS Daily, MW, must be feeling a tad uneasy shipmates. Now surrounded by a papa'a crew aboard the SS Daily, MW must wonder if it's just a matter of time before a new First Mate is appointed. Never mind MW, you could still leap across to the super liner SS Weekly!

Memo overseas tourists, payment by medical insurance is not much cop at our hospital as a visitor discovered yesterday. Cash only, moolah, dosh!

What happened to the \$6 million appropriated in the budget by parliament to complete the tar sealing of the main road from the airport to upper Tupapa? The Mandarins at Infrastructure bark that the dosh has disappeared while Trickie Dickie at MFEM says the moolah is still there! But where did the \$3 million of folding stuff come from to finance the Manihiki harbour job? And the Atiu job?

 **OTE JAMES BEER for MURIENUA**

VACANCY



**COOK ISLANDS AUDIT OFFICE
AUDITOR - FINANCIAL AUDITS**

We are seeking a dedicated and ambitious person to join our Financial and Crown audit team. Relevant accounting, financial management or audit experience would be preferable, however training will be provided.

Preference will be given to individuals with, or working towards, a relevant tertiary qualification, specifically in the area of accounting or finance. A good knowledge and understanding of Government and business systems is preferred. Applicants must be computer literate and possess very good written and oral communication skills.

If you have an inquisitive mind, a keen interest in accountancy and investigative assignments, work well individually and as part of a team, please send your CV to:

Anne McMahan

Email: anne.mcmahan@cookislands.gov.ck

Fax: 25231

Applications close 4pm, Monday 17 February 2014



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

The following opportunities now exist for motivated, enthusiastic and energetic people to join the team at the Business Trade Investment Board.

1. **Business Development Manager**
2. **Trade and Market officer**
3. **Senior Finance & Administration Officer**

Applicants must be self motivated, proactive and have the ability to take a project through to completion.

Computer literacy with exceptional organisational abilities complemented with experience and qualifications an advantage. Contact Agnes Teiti for job descriptions on phone 24296 or email: agnes.parker@cookislands.gov.ck Written applications with a current CV maybe sent in confidence to:

BTIB Private Bag, Rarotonga or email the above mentioned.

Applications close 3pm, Friday 14 February 2014.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY



Airports Authority has a vacancy for a quality **Assurance Manager** to head its Quality Assurance unit at Rarotonga International Airport.

If you understand the dynamics of Airport Quality Management Systems, have proven work experience in a compliance auditing role, is a team player able to work and motivate people with at least 5 years of senior management work experience, this may be your opportunity.

Please forward your written application with your CV to the Chief Executive of the Airport Authority, P.O Box 90, Avarua, Rarotonga. Applications close 12pm February 21st 2014.

For any queries and for a copy of the position description please email jngamata@airport.gov.ck

TENDER



**PORTS AUTHORITY
FOR SALE BY TENDER "AS IS WHERE IS"**

1 x Daihatsu Truck

To view the above equipment contact: Andre Tuiravakai at the Ports Authority Office on ph 29123 or mob 56772.

Submit written tenders to: General Manager, Port Authority by courier or deposit into tender box at Ports Authority Office, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Mark as "DAIHATSU TENDER". Tender closes on the 14th February 2014.

Please direct all enquiries to General Manager, Ports Authority. Phone: +682 21921; Fax: +682 21191 Email: bim.tou@ports.co.ck



COOK ISLANDS
Ministry of Education
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

Applications are invited from qualified, motivated and experienced professionals for the following curriculum advisory and administration positions:

1. **Director of Planning and Development**
Responsible for supporting the development of mid-term and annual business planning, policy development, school reviews, compliance and annual reporting.
2. **Planning and Policy Officer**
Policy review, research and development, including consultation with stakeholders.
3. **Learning and Teaching Curriculum Advisors (2 positions)**
Provide advice on current pedagogical practice aimed at improving student achievement preferable at the secondary level, state major and supporting subject areas.

An application pack is available from the Ministry website: www.education.gov.ck

Please send completed application form with CV and references to: Director – Human Resources Management

Ministry of Education

P.O Box 97

Rarotonga

Cook Islands

PH (682) 29357 Fax (682) 28357 or email vacancy@education.gov.ck

Applications close Friday 14 February 2014

EAT LESS

MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

VACANCY



Cook Islands Financial Services
Development Authority

OFFICE AND FINANCE MANAGER

Manage the Finance and Administrative duties of the Authority, meeting MFEM financial reporting requirements, and the administering of correspondence and marketing materials.

For more details on the position, please email jdavis@fsda.gov.ck.

This may be a Part-Time or Full-Time position depending on the skills of the successful candidate. Confidential applications should be made in writing and include a CV and sent by e-mail to: jdavis@fsda.gov.ck.

Applications close Friday, January 14, 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**Written Submissions on
Draft Master Plan**

The Te Mato Vai project team wish to advise that due to requests from the public for more time to prepare submissions relating to the Te Mato Vai draft Master Plan, the closing date for submissions has been extended to Friday 14th February, 2014.

Written submissions can be sent to:

Te Mato Vai project
PO Box 3286
Rarotonga
Cook Islands
Or emailed to Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com
Phone queries to Te Mato Vai project office 28851

The Draft Master Plan can be downloaded at <http://watsan.gov.ck/water-partnership>

76720

PUBLIC NOTICE



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO
COOK ISLANDS

**ENVIRONMENT SERVICE PUBLIC NOTICE
Environmental Impact Assessment
(EIA) Reports**

Government Departments, Agencies and the General Public are hereby advised that the Environment Service has received the following application for a Project Permit as required under Section 36 of the Environment Act 2003.

Application:

1. TE MATO VAI PROJECT

Project: Phase.1 – The Proposed Ring Water Reticulation Upgrade (Ara Tapu and Ara Metua) for Rarotonga.

Land: Te-Au-o-Tonga District, Puaikura District, Takitumu District.

In accordance with subsection 5 a) and c) of Section 36 of the Environment Act 2003, any person, Government Agencies or Organisation who wish to make a written submission for or against the granting of a Project Permit by the Environment Service for this applications, may do so within 30 days commencing on the 30th day of January 2014. Written submissions may be in Cook Islands Maori or English be submitted to the National Environment Service no later than the 28th day of February 2014.

EIA Reports for the above applications may be viewed at the following venues or on NES Website:

- www.environment.gov.ck
- NES Office Takuvaine,
- National Library Maraerenga,
- Super Browns Kiiiki
- Matavera Traders Matavera
- Muri 6-11 Shop Muri
- Akapuao Store Akapuao
- Wigmores Vaimaanga
- Kavera Shop Kavera,
- Rite Price Shop Akaoa
- Oasis Nikao
- Turamatuitui Shop Tereora
- Tauae Shop Takuvaine

**Director
Environment Service**

JAMES BEER

IT'S TIME TO GET OUR ECONOMY WORKING AGAIN

We know that at one time the Cook Islands was an agriculture Power House. We exported 100's of 1000's of kilos of tomatoes, bananas peppers, citrus fruits, root crops and a massive variety of green vegetables. At today's dollars that's equivalent to over \$2 million in export income per month or \$24 million per annum. The Demo's are not prepared to allow that opportunity to pass not with all the **new jobs** and **new income** that could come our way!

We are also aware that technology has caught up with us and vegetables in climate controlled environments are doing what we used to be able to provide. However, we are also aware that many things cannot be reproduced as authentically or as tasty as how we currently grow them. For example our taro is unique, and we know that tropical fruit trees are a long way off being grown in a climate controlled farm in Canada for instance. These policies and other great ideas will help bring back jobs income and opportunities and revive this once economic power house of the Cook Islands.

1. Increase Import Levies on selected fruit vegetables fish and eggs to stimulate local production and make local production cost competitive in the short term. An immediate **25% import levy** followed 6 months later by a **50% import levy** and this followed by a **100% import levy** for the final 6 months of the import levies period.

2. All fruit vegetable and egg imports will be **prohibited by legislation** from being imported after 18 months with a Prohibition Bill. The importation of such can only be possible on a quota system in the event of severe cyclone or disease damage of the listed local production.

3. A **5 year income tax exemption** for all land based local production.

4. A farmers and fisherman's **Fighting Fund** of 5 million dollars, funded by overseas funding agencies and increased import levies. Applicants must meet certain criteria.

5. Pass Land Facilitation Act for island communities to have access to fallow and arable land and strictly only for agriculture purposes, no buildings or permanent structures without the express consent of all owners. **Compensation** on the basis of a % on out put.

6. **Start tropical fruit tree** farming program with an emphasis on fruits for export to markets where such



fruits do not require the fumigation and treatment because cold climates are a natural deterrent for tropical pests.

7. Take advantage of The City of Manukau gift of land in Mangere to the people of the Cook Islands to develop a retail store for all things Cook Islands, giving access to our local production to over **60,000 new customers** of Cook Islands descent and as a result an increased yield to local producers.

8. Build an irradiation plant at an investment of about 1 million dollars to allow the **export potential** for Cook Islands produce to countries like New Zealand in such a way that the quality of our produce is not diminished via the current treatment processes.

.....
: **For a New Beginning of Change** :



James Beer
for Murienua