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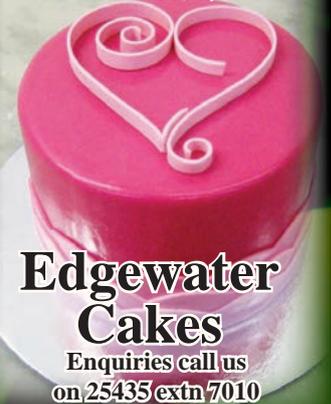
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Government in business a smoke screen

Empty treasury coffers desperately need cash

Finance Minister Mark Brown's parroting of his Finance Secretary Richard Neves unqualified script Government has no purpose getting into commercial business is a sad indictment of his inept understanding of Government and private sector partnerships.

The Chinese Government has seen the value and experienced outstanding results from joint private sector engagements. Then again know all Neves can't see beyond his limited business knowledge and has done nothing but slowly reduce Brown to his basement level of business deficiency. Initially showing some promise of growing his business capacity through being the Minister of Finance, Mark Brown has regressed and become dependent on the incompetent Neves. Brown simply has the wrong coach and should detach himself from Neves and find himself a small group of business mentors whom he can bounce off ideas and policy components.

The cognitive distortion Brown is captive to is, if the Cook Islands exercised our first right to purchase Telecom New Zealand shares in Telecom Cook Islands the business would fail. How embarrassingly wrong. How Brown could look at his own face in the mirror without scolding himself is self preserving. TCI has been successfully run for years without the operational involvement of NZ or the politicians and has delivered at least \$20million in dividends over the last ten years.

Just as he was quick to open his mouth over opening the books of TCI after his successful election and appointment as Minister for Communications, Brown had to retract his over exuberant promises because contractual confidentiality prohibited public disclosure. Brown is having a similar thoughtless mouth opening moment with

reckless media statements that expose his knowledge void. To compare the government's purchase of TNZ shares with Toagate is ludicrous. Whatever possessed Brown to make such self incriminating babble needs to be exorcised immediately.

Brown needs to stand back take a deep breath then listen and hear the voice of the people independent of the more and more business incompetent Neves reveals to be. Instead of mouthing off Neves' prepared scripts, Brown ought to do a lot of listening and restrain himself from his silly dismissive off the cuff self incriminating comments.

Brown's shoot from the hip comments have and are devaluing hard working Cook Islanders who have tirelessly toiled to make TCI what it is today. Once owned by the British Cable and Wireless, after their controversial departure Cook Islanders have owned the results of their labours. TCI is a well run profitable company operated by highly trained and qualified local managers who could hold their own internationally. Take for example the former CEO Stu Davies, who learnt his craft at TCI, he was snapped up by an international organisation at the drop of the hat. Then there is Phil Henderson, Jeane Matenga and many others who did their time at TCI.

Last Friday TCI Board Chairman Temu Okotai met with a group at TCI at their request who shared their concerns of the lack of transparency and worries about their employment futures. As per normal those affected the most don't get consulted but informed after the deal is done.

Given the opportunity local management could step up to be CEO without a resulting glitch in the operations. To imply TCI would fail if the Cook Islands purchased TNZ shares is so far from reality. If anything the



Mark Brown

locals who have invested their working lives in TCI would be so proud the company was 100% Cook Island owned and all will rise to the occasion to make the rest of us just as proud.

Part of Brown's sell out thinking has been shaped by the constant nit picking by disgruntled expats who have expectations beyond reality.

Like Neves, Brown is blinded to what locals can achieve given the genuine opportunity to do so. Backed by a Board appointed based upon competency instead of political patronising TCI will become a real flagship of local commitment. Get real Minister of Finance.

The Cook Islands should be grateful such talented locals have not absconded to greener pastures taking their highly in demand telecommunication skills with them. A Digicel buy out will without a doubt see a 30% cut in personnel, some at the high end. The outer islands TCI staff will also be negatively impacted. What do you say to these people and their families Mr Brown? We all know its water off a ducks back to Neves.

Hopefully the Chamber of Commerce delegation was able

to talk sense with Brown at their lengthy meeting last Friday.

Digicel want a monopoly grace period of five years and the money grabbing Neves the architect of Nenevanomics won't hesitate or blink an eye lid in giving it to them as long as he got his hands on the \$7 million to.

Te Aponga is 100 percent owned and it is self sustaining and commercially profitable and is overseen by a local Board and headed by Mangaian Apii Timoti. The Airport Authority has a local Board with Joe Ngamata at the helm and is commercially sustainable without receiving government funding.

So where is the sense in Brown's flippant comment that government should leave business to the private sector? TCI, Te Aponga and the Airport are successful commercial operations proudly headed by local people. What will be the difference with a fully locally owned TCI?

Get behind your local work force Brown or we'll end up with an influx of more expats and immigrant workers. Think local, go local or local go.

George Pitt former TCI Chairman

Subtle changes to finance law and policy amount to social engineering

It's time to pause.... for a cuppa

By Charles Pitt

While it may not be noticeable now, the outcome will confirm what has been suspected all along, and that is, precise but subtle changes to finance laws and policy, will bring about fundamental changes to our society and pave the way for even more dramatic changes to come.

This process of change is so subtle as to be almost undetectable except to those who have experienced the process previously.

Unless some intervention occurs, it will be too late to halt this process of change and society will have to deal with the consequences.

What is happening in the finance sector amounts to social engineering and it is being driven by expatriates who lack cultural understanding and sensitivity and inexperienced theorists with no real depth of experience under a mistaken belief that tinkering with the economy to fit a foreign economic model will better adapt our society for the changes to come.

A small group within MFEM will have needed to sell the idea of a new economic model to the Minister of Finance and the PM. Other Cabinet Ministers need not know.

Raising VAT, means testing the local pension by making it subject to tax for the first time in our history, overturning a 17 year old no-tax policy on the NZ pension, removal of import levies thus knee capping local agricultural production, the introduction of user pays for water because an overseas

government demanded it and now the proposed sale of Telecom without public mandate, are major changes which will alter the way our society evolves. Government has failed in one important duty, and that is, to fully explain the reasons for and the implications of these changes.

We saw this social engineering in NZ during the time of "Rogernomics" when Finance Minister Roger Douglas and a Labour government de-regulated the finance sector and young, bright, theorists in Treasury with no practical experience began shaping government policy to the extent that whole towns and societies were affected. Imported goods became cheaper forcing some factories to close and jobs to be lost. Government ministries moved to a more business like footing and the speed of change took many by surprise.

In NZ, after Douglas proposed a "flat tax," it took PM David Lange's intervention, "Pause for a cuppa tea," is what he called it, to halt a rampant Finance Minister Roger Douglas and Treasury. Douglas had no option but to resign. Like Douglas, Cook Islands Finance Minister Mark Brown backs his Finance Ministry to the full. Finance Secretary Neves has been allowed free reign to shape laws and policy. On the issue of demanding a back tax on those receiving the NZ pension, Neves has challenged affected parties to take him to court. Yet Neves has never fully explained the

legal provisions that enable people's bank accounts to be raided. The public should not have to pay for that information. As a public servant, Neves must make that information freely available.

When the CIP came to power, it came with a healthy majority and as such the CIP could say the public had confidence in the party and that such confidence translated into a mandate to make changes. However, that majority has been eroded and now the CIP are finding it harder to convince the public to accept major changes to tax laws and policy.

Undermining public

confidence in the CIP is that the tax law and policy changes have not come up through the grass roots rank and file in the Punas and been thoroughly discussed and endorsed by conference.

It should be clear to government that the public are struggling to cope with, let alone comprehend, the magnitude, effect and pace of change. Worse, is that the public do not understand the reason for these changes.

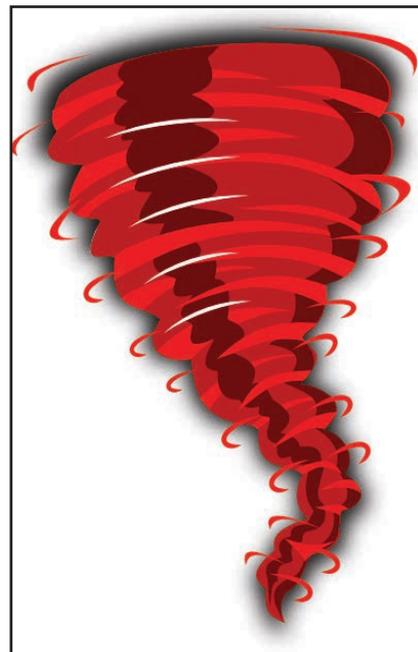
MFEM are setting the country up for a new economic model.

The PM, to quote David Lange, should call for a pause.....for a cuppa.



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Dingo culture barks politicians into submission

Richard Neves has no love of being a tail

The readiness to cash up locally owned Telecom Cook Islands shares in a sell out to international Telco Digicel has nothing to do with the Cook Islands Party Government insisting they shouldn't be in business is moral fraud and more than misleading. The quick fire sale has everything to do with the country heading into a fiscal melt down stemming from the mismanagement of our sovereign financial responsibility by none other than the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Richard Neves.

Lead by a novice team of leaders both lacking in hardnosed business acumen, the Prime Minister Henry Puna and Minister of Finance Mark Brown failed to recruit a small group of successful business advisors for brainstorming and guidance in matters of sovereign fiscal issues as did Sir Geoffrey Henry who balanced his occupational weaknesses through the strengths of others.

Unfortunate to be daily confronted with financial and economic challenges beyond his personal capacity and experiences Brown has leaned on Neves to the extreme. Credit to Brown, what would have crushed many others, he has so far survived one overpowering issue after another, but for how long?

A serious deficiency of the current Cabinet is they have been preoccupied with everything secondary defaulting their primary task of creating policies contextually with the National Constitution, the CIP Constitution and their campaign platforms. Secondary tasks have been Leadership's focus advocating their primary tasks to

the bureaucrats.

Elected to give the country direction and a working road map of prosperity to all the CIP government in the prolonged celebratory euphoria of returning to governance after a decade in the political wilderness have awoken to the reality the drinks have ran out and the music they face can be overcome if everyone in the vaka has a psyche of personal ownership. Lacking a vision that unifies and encompasses everyone in all the tribes leaving none out of the vaka the CIP Government head has surrendered its tasks and responsibilities to the tails.

Instead of acting decisively and delivering Cabinet's policies to the Ministries to implement and sustain the lazy CIP Government has been subordinated by their tails who have created policies of their own then imposed them on their Superiors.

Neves introduction of a dingo culture in MFEM has gradually spread to every corner of the Public service. The Minister's of the Crown are now being dictated to by the overpaid officials. With Crown Law's boss Kim Saunders reinforcing Neves and the belligerent behaviour of Heads of Ministries it will need some crow baring to put the stropo tails back in their place.

With no King in the land every Ministry is left to do their own thing often in contradiction to their Minister's wishes. The unrepentant Neves is a prime example of the dysfunctional dingo culture that permeates the Public Service. Monitoring Government agencies have no teeth let alone bite with the exception of BTIB. Watchdogs, The Audit Office, Ombudsman, PERCA and the Public Service

Commissioner collect obese pay packets to little more than warm seats. No one would know if they were all closed and disbanded and no one would miss them.

How embarrassing for the Prime Minister Henry Puna to go on television and pour out his heart in an emotional speech assuring the raided Grey Power members their extracted Bank account savings would be reimbursed only for Neves to return from his Christmas holiday to nullify Puna's promise. So who is the head and who is the tail? How fitting it is that the Grey Power has called Puna the Great Pretender.

With Puna now firmly put in place by Neves, Mark Brown is now being transformed into the image Neves has purposed for him. Facing career ending consequences (Neves favourite mantra) Brown has been dingoed by the Aussie who is needing quick cash to stay solvent. Neves sees TCI as a cash cow to be fleeced. With no policy on national assets being rolled out by cabinet, tail come head Neves is creating one from fresh air, sell national assets.

The TCI Digicel by out saga is being fuelled by Neves and driven by Brown, both enthused about quickly wrapping up the deal for \$7 million. If Brown was to keep track of all his off the cuff unintelligent comments about Digicel's proposal he will realise he has exposed his shallow appreciation of the telecommunication industry. Every time Brown opens his mouth to defend Neves and his stance he is zig zagging.

Brown is lacking originality and has no telecommunication depth to speak intelligently in a business context about TCI

neither does Neves who has no proven business genes. It's all about the money in their eyes to the point their cognitive distortions are becoming a detriment to the public who own TCI.

The Bible says; Without a vision the people perish. This is exactly what is happening, the failure by arrogant neglect for the CIP government to deliver visionary policies that unify the people has led to society becoming fragmented and hostile over policies trumped by Neves.

Neves treatment of New Zealand pension recipients led to the formation of the underestimated Grey Power movement that has grown in strength, the very unpopular tax changes and the rise in government fees and charges pushing up the cost of doing business has fuelled an undercurrent of anger in the business community. The growing resentment to the Te Mato Vai project is yet to see the force of their anger at a secretive government and the compromising DPM Teariki Heather who some say he boasts he'll be making \$10 million from TMV. Resistance to the TCI sell out by Neves and Brown is gathering momentum and the inevitable back lash will be severe.

People protest movements and uprisings have sprung up all around the world confronting governments who have lost touch with the masses. As disillusionment and frustrated discontent heighten and the different groups unite, unprecedented public protests will force the government to call new elections. - George Pitt

Letter to the Editor

MFEM silent on impact of removal of egg levy

Dear Editor
I have been a bit pre-occupied and could not respond earlier to Mr James Webb's response to mine in CI News of 3 February predicting doomsday for local egg production and asking more questions.

Fairly predictably Mr Webb's replies (08.02.14) have been less than forthcoming.

Basically what he is saying is: It is not our business to tell you how to run your business while we put you out of business, and Come and talk to us privately so that we do not have to address your many pointed questions in the public domain.

Well that is not good enough except in the case of egg levies it seems.

On the doomsday date of 1 April for the removal of egg levies he says 'Public confirmation was given by Government in December' so despite the fact I am hearing whisperings to the contrary I now take it that Mr Webb, being the inside chap that he is, is reconfirming this is Government's intention and all business decisions should depend on that. Right? So at least that is one question sort of answered albeit in a somewhat circumlocutory fashion and whether reliably or not we will just have to take further losses and wait and see.

As to my many other questions still no reply. Mr Webb occupies the privileged position of determining public policy but hides behind lame excuses when challenged on them. 'Come and

talk to us in private!' What a crock! If you are so confident in your analysis answer the questions so interested members of the public may share in your revelations. It is not as if we believe you when you say you would get no work done if you engaged every public enquiry because frankly I doubt that there are many, besides, few would be as persistent as I in pursuing you so there would likely be precious few in the queue.

Also, don't talk to me about lowering consumer prices. I have already told you that the removal of levies on pork and eggs for the outer islands made not a jot of difference yet you persist in this self-deception.

You want to know how to lower prices to consumers then adopt my earlier advice and return to a price control regime for essential groceries and if you are really serious about underpinning this protection then enact the Commerce Bill which the Government has promised to deliver but hasn't.

Both the return to Price Control on basics lines and a Commerce Act would provide the foundation for real protection yet rather than do these things Government (through its economic mouthpiece) blathers on about the remarkable panacea levy removal will achieve. Failure to take the hard decisions is testimony to, and strengthens the notion that, Government is not really sincere but continues to demonstrate its blind obeisance to its friends with vested interests who would have no desire to see

either a return to rigorous price control nor a Commerce Act. The last Price Order (for grocery lines) was 8 years ago. The Commerce Bill has been delayed now for 11 years. Whose influence is behind this do you think? While Mr Webb may be under the impression that he is pulling the strings, determining economic policy and is the architect of the grand design I suggest that he and his colleagues are merely pawns in a grander scheme and are being engineered, manipulated and out-manoeuvred by people alot smarter than they.

Because of all the foot dragging, misguided reasoning, misconceptions and inability to be more innovative and think beyond the text book and the global model I believe a case can

be made out to enlist the services of the BTIB and the invocation of the provisions of S.35A-D of the Development Investment Act to conduct an investigation into the role of MFEM and how its policies, decisions and operations conflict so seriously with, and undermine, the statutory requirements of the BTIB functions pursuant to S 16 of that Act to promote an environment conducive to development, investment and trade because it would appear to me that MFEM, with its tax policies, intransigence on glaring issues, blindness to the need for price control, commerce regulation, some original thinking and innovation would have to be the biggest contributor to the economic ills that afflict us today.

John M Scott

Digicel interest in Telecom

Digicel is currently in advanced discussions with TCNZ and The Government of Cook Islands to purchase a majority shareholding in Telecom Cook Islands. There are some of us Cook Islanders who believe that the mighty Digicel is not the most appropriate organisation to be handed control of the monopoly in an industry sector of such strategic national importance.

In frank dialogue with the Minister for telecommunications last Friday 14 February, Mervin Communications (MCL)/KukiCel Company Director William Framhein outlined his concerns in two key areas. Firstly that the Minister is choosing to waive The Government's first right of refusal in acquiring Telecom New Zealand's (TCNZ Cook Islands) shares in Telecom Cook Islands (TCI) subject to those shares becoming available for purchase. Secondly, the apparent lack of evidence or report showing that Government has carried out due diligence on Digicel.

During the meeting the Minister was asked to change his position on waiving Governments first right of refusal in acquiring the TCNZ shares in TCI as Framhein pointed to the local interest in taking a position in TCI should TCNZ receive an offer from Digicel.

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Our Frontpage model



More Neves done deals

The most politically driven Finance Secretary ever in the history of the Cook Islands, Australian Richard Neves is at it again. Putting the record straight at the Te Mato Vai public consultations Neves arrogantly brushed aside public questions regarding the Chinese input, saying that was a done deal so no discussion, move on.

Done deals have become a trait of the dingo culture Neves has imparted to his subordinates including his superior Minister Mark Brown. If the media hadn't intervened the Digicel buy out of Telecom Cook Islands that would have become another notch in Neves' done deal belt.

Neves latest done deal involves the new VAT law. MFEM's saturation advertising through the media instructing people to pick up the new VAT information and forms, yet the new VAT is yet to be passed in Parliament. Done deal? Not this time Neves, it's glaringly obvious he hasn't heard of the local saying; don't blow your horn till the bread is cooked. This time the bread hasn't even been put in the oven (Parliament) no wonder he's called neneva.

If the three Aitutaki MPs adhere to their constituencies instructions they will not be voting yes for the new VAT bill. As Minister of Tourism, Teina Bishop may be obliged to support the tourism stakeholders who are opposed to the VAT increase. This done deal may never be endorsed in Parliament sending the signal to Neves and Haigh it's time to pack their bags.

- George Pitt

Schedule of price order favours Aitutaki

Life in Aitutaki might not be as bad as Rarotonga, apart from the absence of roaming diseased barking dogs petrol is \$2.23c per litre a whole 31 cents cheaper than Rarotonga's \$2.54c per litre. Aitutaki diesel is 30 cents cheaper at \$2.21c. Government makes a whopping 28 cents a litre from every litre of petrol sold in Rarotonga. Aitutaki like all other sister islands had no levy on fuel courtesy of the Demo government till MFEM pointed out they were losing \$95,000 annually just from Aitutaki alone so they got slammed with a 15 cents a litre levy. Talk about the right hand of love giving and the greedy taxing left hand taking.

- George Pitt

Banks screw down interest rates

Using tricky advertising words like Boost and great interest rates to convince folks their hard earned (Politicians and MFEM bosses excluded) money would be safe stashed in investment accounts, for one year returns the depositor 4.25% interest. These great rates for the brain dead and undiscerning punters are according to the almost unreadable small fine print (Especially the elderly with diminishing eyesight) subject to change. These pre-warned deposits could be de-boosted to a lower interest rate or being grabbed by the immoral grubby undertakers at MFEM if you are a local resident receiving the lucrative NZ pension. If the banks adopted a Court order first before extraction policy they could advertise themselves as the SAFE Bank. Imagine the first Bank to do so; they would get most of the \$6 million in new money that the pensioners bring into the country each year. No mention of the excessive interest rates if you want to borrow funds.

- George Pitt

Our front-page model this week is 23 year old Lauran Bergin. Lauran is based in New Zealand, studying Law. She is currently here in Rarotonga on holiday, working with and learning from Brian Mason at Mason PC. She departs for New Zealand this Sunday. 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.

QR Appoints Anthony Brown as new Official Secretary

Queen's Representative His Excellency, Tom J Marsters has appointed local practicing lawyer Mr. Anthony Brown as the new Official Secretary of the Office of the Head of State as of Tuesday 18th February 2014.

In a press statement, His Excellency cited it was his pleasure to appoint Brown to the prestigious post with much support of the Prime Minister, Honourable Henry Puna and the Public Service Commissioner. Brown is a former Director of Labour, Director of National Disaster Management and Secretary of Agriculture and took up legal practice from 2012 till this appointment. Brown is able to resonate with public administration however, this time, at a constitutional level envisaged within the realms of the Office of the Head of State.

Brown takes over from a retiring Harry Ivaiti who has achieved 40 years of public service and was highly recognized by His Excellency for services rendered to the Head of State, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Parliament and the Educational sector. The QR said he

accepted Ivaiti's resignation for retirement noting his current condition of ill health and that he and his wife prayed for Ivaiti's recovery.

Brown has a double degree in Administrative and Political Science from the University of Canberra, Certificate and Degree in Law from the University of the South Pacific and a Diploma in Management Studies from Wellington.

Brown told the Herald it was 'an Honour to Serve the Queen especially in the person of His Excellency Tom Marsters as a man of high public stature, dignity, astute and noble. Brown has already found in his own opinion "an issue of juxtaposition in the Constitutional Amendment with Article 75 in respects of Article 1". A matter he has already expressed with His Excellency.

Brown's appointment continues a proud family tradition, as his father Mr Maine Brown (as former Public Service Commissioner) was also the first Official Secretary to the Head of State in 1983, with the late Sir Gaven Donne followed by the late Sir Tangaroa Tanagroa and the late Sir Apenera Short.



Shallow water fish aggregate device (FAD) deployed for Arorangi

Local fishers and mariners are being advised that a shallow water fish aggregate device (FAD) has been deployed by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) seven hundred meters offshore from Arorangi School.

Senior fisheries officer Sonny Tatuava advises that the FAD was rigged to support coastal fishing activities that take place in the locality such as trolling of surface pelagic species, deep bottom fishing for snappers, bait fishing for the scads "ature" and "Köperu" and night fishing to catch snake mackerel Mangā.

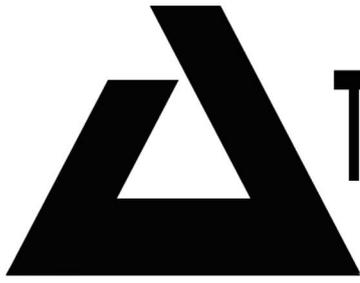
The final site location was decided after consulting with the local fishers, Arorangi fishing club, Ports Authority and the Member of Parliament. Advice for the bathymetric survey conducted by MMR staffs was provided surveyors from MOIP.

This is the eleventh FAD deployed around Rarotonga. It will provide easy access for Arorangi fishers to the fishing grounds and help save on fuel costs and improve sea safety.

The latitude and longitude of the FAD is 21°14'.160 and 159°50'.130, respectively.



MMR staff preparing for FAD deployment



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in Oil/Tomato Sauce



\$2.50
can

Budget Nappies
20's Medium



\$9.50
packet

Spree Soft Drink Cans
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\$1.90
can

Vodka Cruiser (5% Alcohol)
Ice/Raspberry/Cool Lime/Passion Fruit



\$3.40
Bottle



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands



The Business Trade Investment Board publishes a monthly gazette privy to its subscribers with interest in property development, real estate, business diversification, development and research. The Business Gazette is a monthly booklet packed with information on new registered companies, new approved foreign enterprises, information on leases transfers, assignments and mortgages, news updates on trade and investment in the Pacific region and a newly introduced section dedicated to the local banking industry. According to Vaine Arioka of BCI, this month BCI formally launch its Renewable Energy Loan programme, designed to help our homes on the island be fitted out with solar energy kits. The programme took 3 years to develop with concepts stemming from a joint feasibility study with TAU, the office of the PM and MFEM to identify solar energy finance solution for low income earners in 2011. The results were no surprises - to be sustainable some significant level of donor funding was required. BCI had the privilege to experience the "Energy Efficiency" Finance Solutions forum in Palau in 2011, and actively participated in the "Energy Efficiency" fridge freezer replacement programmes funded by ADB, GEF and the CI Govt in 2013. We also recognised the details were better understood by talking with stakeholders in the renewable energy industry. Over time, the learning helped BCI develop the Renewable Energy Loan product tailored to its business and personal customers whilst all along helping Government achieve its **"50/15 – 100/20 policy goal for renewable electricity"**. BCI are pleased to have the support of its Board of Directors, who wholeheartedly endorsed the concept. They took this initiative as an extension of what BCI is about – sustainability, self reliance and looking after our people. Initially the programme will be open to home owners who have houses here on Rarotonga, and will be rolled out to the Outer Islands as professional installers of the solar kits expand their services to include them. This programme will be open to all home owners on Rarotonga, whether they are BCI clients or not, provided their house is here and they meet the eligibility criteria. This criteria is based around the value of the house and ability to service the loan, with the term being flexible to fit around power savings wherever possible. For further information contact BCI Ph: 29-341.

For those interested to subscribe to BTIB's business gazette and receive critical and current business information, contact BTIB Ph: 24-296.

China warships in Pacific raise alarm

Beijing flexes its maritime muscles with unannounced war exercise in international waters



Three Chinese warships have sent dark new clouds scudding over Australia's strategic horizon, adding to growing unease across the region as Beijing flexes its muscles through the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.

The sudden appearance near Australia of the guided missile destroyers Wuhan and Haikou, in company with the advanced, 20,000-tonne landing ship Changbaishan, led to the RAAF Orion patrol aircraft being scrambled and sent north of the continent.

Although operating legally in international waters, the unannounced passage of the ships through the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra to the Lombok Strait off Bali has been seen as a clear message that China is now a major maritime power operating wherever it wants to go.

The series of 10 exercises between Indonesia and Australia was also a demonstration of China's increasing might, reach and sophistication as the emerging superpower ramps up its territorial claims.

The implications have triggered concern also in India, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Philippines, and raised further questions about Beijing's increasing presence in the South Pacific - particularly its development and expansion of

ports in Tonga and Papua New Guinea.

The United States has already responded with a shift in its naval emphasis to the region, increasing its marine presence in Australia and the intention to base 60 per cent of its warships in the Asia-Pacific region by 2020.

By that time China's navy will have become even more formidable. Funded by an economy that is now the world's second-largest and on track to become the biggest, Beijing's US\$110 billion (\$132 billion) defence budget is exceeded only by the US.

Its sole aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, bought from Ukraine and refurbished, will be joined by an 80,000-tonne nuclear-powered vessel within six years, with plans for four more. As well as a larger, advanced surface fleet, China's ballistic and attack submarine force will also be significantly expanded.

Chinese warships are rapidly gaining new potency through advanced technology. This month a Song class diesel-electric attack submarine slipped past screening US warships to surface within striking range of the aircraft carrier USS Kittyhawk. That set the alarm bells ringing.

In the Lombok Strait, the three Chinese warships conducted exercises including fast-response electronic warfare, anti-missile defence, and attack co-

ordination.

State television said no advance warning of the mission had been given as "part of the navy's plan to simulate actual combat conditions".

Analysts have seen a number of signals in the deployment beyond the demonstration of power, reach and "self-confidence" advocated by policymakers in Beijing.

Among these is the ability to protect the sea lanes vital for its energy imports, and the potential to use alternatives to the Malacca Strait if the key route was closed.

The exercise was also the first to extend beyond the western waters of the Indian Ocean, and to come so close to Australia.

Last October, similar capabilities were demonstrated when Chinese warships, supported by bombers and patrol aircraft, passed through the Japanese archipelago to conduct war games in the western Pacific, alarming Japan.

With tensions already high over the disputed Senkakus/Diaoyu islands, Tokyo increased its defence budget, announcing plans for more strike jets, warships and other hardware.

India is also concerned at China's operations in the eastern Indian Ocean, worrying that Beijing is placing the crucial waters around the Andaman and Nicobar islands within reach of

its military.

China insists that its naval operations present no threat to other countries in the region and that its Lombok Strait exercises were part of annual training plans during which its navy upheld its right to free passage in international waters.

China has also been increasing cooperation within the region, joining US warships for search-and-rescue exercises near Hawaii last year, and sending ships on goodwill visits to Australia and New Zealand. This year it will take part in the huge American Rimpac naval exercise off Hawaii.

Prime Minister John Key has said New Zealand "doesn't feel concerned by anything [China] might be doing", a view also expressed after the Lombok exercises by Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Noting that the exercises took place in international waters, Bishop said: "The Chinese navy is growing, commensurate with the increase in size and strength of the Chinese economy and its place in the region and its place in the globe."

Lowy Institute international security programme director Rory Medcalf wrote that there was nothing illegal or fundamentally hostile in the exercises, and that a greater Chinese role in the Indian Ocean was inevitable.

- NZ Herald World News

Murienua by-election a genuine contest

James Beer 187 votes, Kaota Tuariki 184 votes

By Charles Pitt

James Beer 187 votes, Kaota Tuariki 184 votes.

It was a two horse race but they were evenly matched. The preliminary results on the night reveal that while James Beer (Demos) has made up a lot of ground on his September 2013

performance, the contest is very close.

There are still 8 special votes to count, 18 advance votes and 27 declarations. Historically, the special votes have favoured the CIP. Back in September 2013 James Beer did capture a significant number of the special

votes.

As is the case in this electorate, a large number of eligible voters, 117, did not exercise their right to vote.

For the present Beer has his nose in front and one cannot deny him his right to celebrate on the night because he has put

a lot into his campaign.

The Herald congratulates Beer and his team on their efforts and wish them well and success. Katoa has shown he is a worthy opponent in his own right and cannot be easily discounted.

It will be about a week or so before the specials are counted.

Murienua 2014 by-election, 2013 by-election and 2010 general election analysis (CIP/Demo)

Murienua by-election 19 February 2014 votes on day (preliminary)

CIP (Kaota Tuariki)	184
Demo (James Beer)	187
Special votes still to count	8
Advance votes still to count	18
Declarations still to count	27

On roll: 541 (up 14)

Voted: 424

Did not vote: 117

Murienua by-election 19 September 2013 votes on day **Final after specials counted**

CIP (Kaota Tuariki)	193	219	(+26)
Demo (James Beer)	174	194	(+20)
Special votes still to count	39		

On roll: 517

Voted: 406

Did not vote: 111

Notes:

Beer has increased his votes on 2010 total. Gap with CIP narrowed from 66 to 25 votes.

CIP votes on the day about same as 2010 final vote.

78 less on Roll than in 2010.

Less people voted than in 2010.

In 2010 special votes favoured the CIP.

In 2013, Beer's share of the special votes has increased from 9 to 20.

Murienua 2010 General Election votes on night final after specials counted

CIP (Tom Marsters)	171	193 (+ 22)
Demo (James Beer)	118	127 (+ 9)

On roll: 595

Voted: 452

Did not vote: 143

Notes:

Special votes favoured CIP.

Three other candidates also stood.

Murienua by-election 2014 scenes



New Premium Gin



John Sexton and his son Anthony

An exclusive Premium Pacific gin with ties to the Cook Islands is now available in Rarotonga. It is a refreshing citrus forward Pacific gin associated with the South Pacific and is currently being sold by CITC in Rarotonga.

It is manufactured in an Auckland distillery and marketed throughout the South Pacific region by Colonial Commodities New Zealand Limited.

The gin, Vaione, won golds and best in class in the Stillmaster competition 2008 for John Sexton, who was also awarded Stillmaster of the Year 2008. Vaione also won a bronze at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2013.

The distinctive bottle represents the South Pacific region.

John Sexton (64), the man behind Vaione, has roots in the Cook Islands. His Grandmother, Meletihau was from Manihiki. He has cousins in Rarotonga, Pastor John Tangi and his sister Meleone, Loretta Reynolds and Karen Johnston of Muri Beach.

John's father, of German/English heritage, was born in



Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

John won the New Zealand Pacific Business Trust inaugural Business of the Year 1992.

John's son Anthony, who has been involved in the project since its inception, is managing the business.

Interested enquirers should contact Fraser Nooroa at CITC.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

LAPTOPS

Tips & Tricks

Make Your Own Power Plan

Windows laptops include a few preset power plans for maximizing battery life, but you can also customize your operating system's power-management features (in Windows XP, under Power Options in the Control Panel; in Vista, under Mobile PC in the Control Panel). Setting aggressive targets for when the display turns off and when the machine goes into sleep or hibernate mode will help your battery last longer.

Limit Your Connection

When you aren't actively using your notebook's Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, WWAN, or other wireless connections, turn the radios off (via the hard switch, if your PC has one, or using the appropriate utility), so they don't run down the battery while they keep searching for a signal. Also, use USB-attached devices sparingly while you're mobile.

Track it down

Thousands of laptops are reported stolen every year. Our advice? Prepare for the worst by investing in tracking software like Absolute Software's Lojack for Laptops, CyberAngel Security, or the free TheLaptopLock. These utilities can pinpoint a registered notebook's location once it connects to the Web, increasing your chances of recovering your system.

Dim the display

A laptop's biggest battery-life-sucking component is its LCD display. To eke out more juice when you're off the plug, turn down your panel's brightness to the lowest level your eyes can stand. Most notebooks have a Function key combo—or even a dedicated hot key—for a quick crank-down. (You can also adjust brightness in Display Settings under Control Panel.)

... to be continued

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Memories of my fallen MP friends

By Norman George MP for Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

In my 31 years in Parliament, 29 of my peers have passed on. I wish to share some of my experiences, involving them, with you, in alphabetical order.

I continue with Papa Tom, Sir Thomas Davis. It is often said that power corrupts. When Papa Tom met up with Pa Terito Ariki of Takitumu, he became Pa Tuterangi Ariki when they got married or Pa Tane.

Papa Tom always carried airs of eminence as he was a brilliant scientist who worked for the NASA Space programme. Add to this a knighthood and an Ariki title, on top of being Prime Minister of the Cook Islands you have the most powerful man in the nation with unlimited powers. That signalled alarm bells.

Papa Tom took on airs greater than those of a simple Prime Minister. He decided to attend the Commonwealth games in Scotland in 1986. He decided that he had to have an aide-de-camp, with Lady Davis having a lady-in-waiting. In cabinet I advised him that the privilege was for a Head of State only, not to mention the prohibitive costs of taking two extra people. When he ran out of excuses, he simply said to us in Cabinet, "let's call it a leaders privilege". He carried the day.

Before he left, Papa Tom tried to persuade Sir Tangaroa Tangaroa to sign an undated "revocation or dismissal Ministerial Warrant". He wanted to carry a signed dismissal warrant without a name or date. If a Minister upset him all he had to do was write the Ministers name down and the date! I knew that was designed from me!

To his credit Papa Tangaroa refused!

In 1985, there was major fallout between New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange and Papa Tom over the Defence Treaty called ANZUS between

Australia, New Zealand and the United States. That was the time New Zealand declared itself a nuclear free zone, which prohibited U.S. warships from visiting New Zealand if they carried nuclear weapons.

Papa Tom charged in with pro USA postures. There were jokes about a new treaty to be called "CANZUS" to include the Cook Islands. Papa Tom welcomed US warships to visit Rarotonga instead, but the US Government wisely declined. They did not want to fracture the relationship further.

Three other events shook our relationship with New Zealand at the time! When Papa Tom taunted NZ P.M. Lange about New Zealand inability to defend the Cook Islands, New Zealand ordered the biggest military exercise held outside of New Zealand in the Cook Islands in Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

The cost was rumoured to be NZ\$31 million.

After so much ground work to shift aircraft and equipment to Rarotonga, with me as Foreign Affairs Minister working closely with the NZ Government, Papa Tom tried to pull the plug on the exercise.

A week before the military exercise, Papa Tom called for a special cabinet meeting. He announced that the Ui Ariki and Aronga Mana wanted him to cancel the exercise. I advised him that Cabinet unanimously approved the exercise, he must understand the ramifications of collective decision making, if one cabinet Minister disagrees with the rest, then he must resign. I also advised him that the Ui Ariki and Aronga Mana had no role in Cabinet decision making.

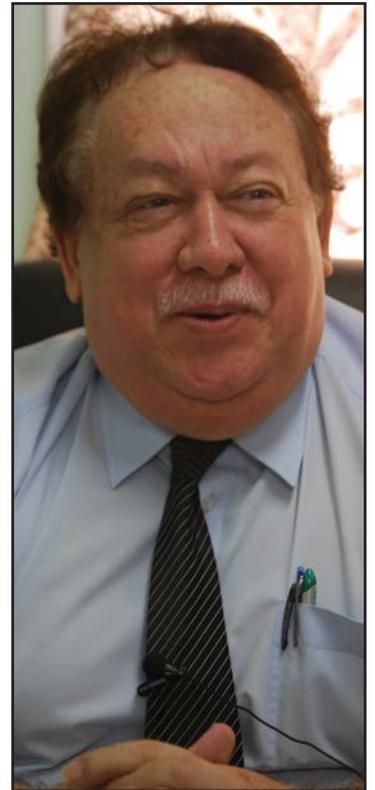
He switched to saying that as Minister of Defence he had a right to cancel the exercise on his own. I asked him to point to the constitution to tell US where it says that. He quickly backed down and a successful exercise was conducted.

During the South Pacific Forum of 1985 held in Rarotonga, Papa Tom again tried to buck the system by initially refusing to support the South Pacific Nuclear Free Treaty. We in Cabinet persuaded him that as the hosts this is a once in a life time opportunity to take the lead. Reluctantly he supported it. When we made an official visit to New Zealand in 1986, I was in shock when we went up the Beehive to meet PM David Lange. He welcomed us to our seats, and then started reading out a prepared press statement. He said something like "at a meeting between the two Prime Ministers, it is agreed that the Cook Islands is now free to declare full independence!... He was still trying to read on when I interrupted.

Lange, I said, "Prime Minister it is not as simple as that.... our status is entrenched in our constitution. A referendum must first be held and supported by 75% of the population.

I also advised him that the people of the Cook Islands will throw us out of Parliament, if they hear it. The speech was screwed up and ended up in the rubbish bin. All these incidents were never released to the public.

The last of Papa Tom's demise was when he removed



\$350,000, from the Mangaia Island Pineapple budget in 1987. Matepi Matepi led the charge to remove him. I was in Samoa at the time, but was recalled to Rarotonga. There was clearly majority of caucus against Papa Tom.

His replacement was decided between me and Papa Pupuke Robati. I will reserve the drama of selection to another time for the record; I conceded the position to Pupuke Robati.

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Thank you for not forgetting us

By Howard Henry

I have got some good news for you."

The good news is that the old people in the Cook Islands, who receive the Cook Islands Old Age Pension, are all getting a significant benefit increase as of 1 March 2014. But everybody already knows that by now.

However ... to recap : for those aged between 60 and 69, their benefit goes up from \$400 a month to \$500 a month (\$6,000 for the year). And for those 70 years and over, their benefit goes up from \$500 a month to \$625 a month or \$7,500 a year.

For a married couple of 70 years or more for example, this gives them a combined monthly income of \$1,250 ... or about \$315 per week.

And all this pension money is "tax-free" because this income is under the "tax-free" threshold of \$11,000 per person, per year.

... now for the "real good news."

This being that the Old Age Pensioners are grateful, and thankful to this Cook Islands Party Government for giving all of them such a significant increase in their benefit payments.

While some, because of their political persuasion to the "other mob" will be quite happy to "take and say nothing in acknowledgement", the vast majority of pensioners throughout the country will accept these benefit increases with open gratitude and heartfelt appreciation.

These people are the "Real Grey Power" in the Cook Islands. Not that small "fringe group" of individuals who are always on TV, and sponsored by the Democratic Party, who keep trying to "Run the Government down" every TV chance they get.

It is common knowledge that the Old Age Pension was Albert Henry's "Pet Policy" when he formed the Cook Islands Party in 1964. It is also common knowledge that he and his Government introduced the "Cook Islands Universal Old Age Pension Scheme" in 1966.

What is not commonly known is, that as a result of Albert's "Pet Policy" implementation, the Cook Islands is the only country in the Pacific which has anything



Left to right : Albert Henry, Dr Manea Tamarua, Mana Strickland, Julian "Rakau" Dashwood, Apenera Short and Tiakana Numanga.

like a Universal Old Age Pension Scheme. In fact, the Cook Islands is the only Developing Country in the world that has such a benefit programme.

We should be very proud that we have got such a scheme. So many other countries will NEVER get a Universal Old Age Pension Scheme because they can't afford it. They will NEVER be able to afford it. So the Cook Islands a very unique and special in this regard.

The Old Age Pensioners of today will remember Albert Henry and his first C.I.P. Government after 1965. They will remember how hard and tough life really was for people in those days. They will remember how it was a real struggle just to earn a living to put food on the table to feed their families.

The vast majority of people of that time were living in homes that still had thatched roofs, no electricity, no running water inside their houses. Hard work was an everyday necessity with very little money in hand.

The 1st Cook Islands Party Government/Cabinet of 1965

These were the men who introduced the Cook Islands Old Age Pension Scheme in 1966.

The Government of 1965 inherited an economy based entirely on the export of copra and "Raro Juice". They were basically broke from Day One.

But collectively, the Government, and the people of

that time toiled and worked and strove to create a better a better way of life, a better standard of living and a better and more prosperous future for all to share and enjoy in later years.

It is those "workers" from the 1960's 70's and 80's who are now retired and so collecting the Old Age Pension.

They earned this money through sweat and toil during a bygone era.

They earned the "benefit" they are receiving today through hard work, sacrifice and great personal effort to bring up their children and to provide for their families at a time so vastly different to what we have in the Cook Islands today.

Before any smart-alec jumps up and down to claim that we only have an Old Age Pension Scheme because it was funded by New Zealand Aid money, let me knock that assumption on the head right at the start. Aid money from New Zealand, or anywhere else, has never been used to fund this scheme. It has always been funded by the Cook Islands Government from its own financial resources.

Sometimes it is very hard for a Cook Islander to say "thank you" ... for anything.

More often than not it is a "take-take-take" and no appreciation offered or gratitude given.

But in this case, I am sure, all

the Old Age Pensioners in the Cook Islands, who are going to get a benefit increase, are thankful and grateful to this Cook Islands Party Government. However, because of their political opposition to the C.I.P. there are some who would never openly admit it. But that's OK. I've got no problem with that.

The vast majority of the "Real Cook Islands Grey Power" are not like that. They are thankful and grateful for the money being given to them on a fortnightly basis.

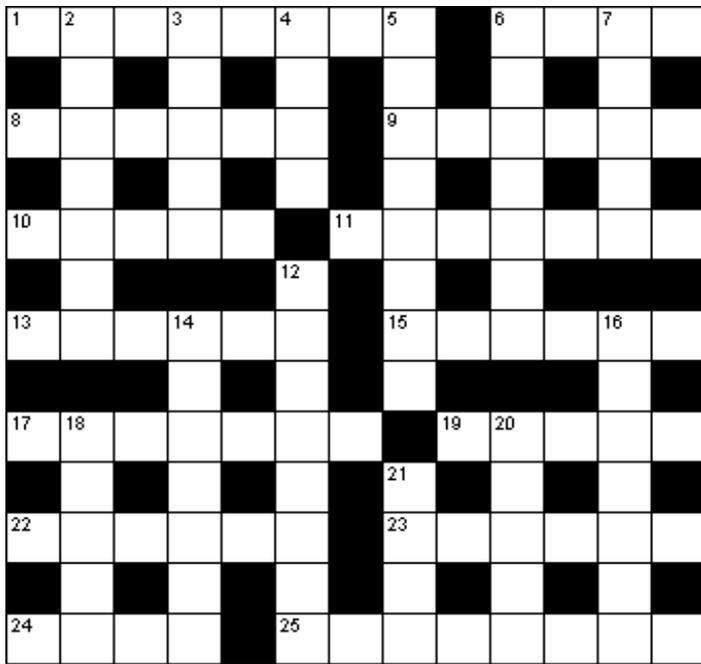
I think it is only appropriate that a "thank you" be given to all the wage and salary earners who are paying P.A.Y.E. as well as all those businesses who are paying VAT to the Government. "Thank You" also to all those companies paying "Company Tax" and to those individuals and businesses who pay import levies and other fees and costs to Government for what ever reason.

This is because "Your Taxes" is where the money is coming from to enable the Cook Islands Government to pay the Old Age Pension to the levels that they are. It is through your hard work and efforts of today that enables the elderly in this country to live a life above poverty and destitution.

They are able to live a life of dignity and with self respect.

And for that, I am sure, all the elderly are most grateful.

CROSSWORD

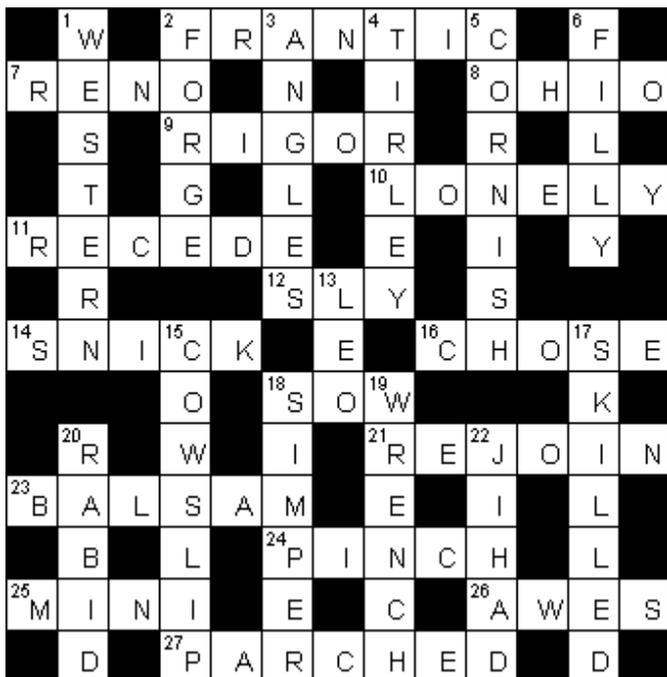


Across

- 1. Pertaining to a galaxy (8)
- 6. Brownish purple (4)
- 8. Harass (6)
- 9. Tangle of logs (6)
- 10. Ran swiftly (5)
- 11. Office head (7)
- 13. Instrument used in combat (6)
- 15. Sixth planet (6)
- 17. Deformed lip (7)
- 19. Frothy (5)
- 22. Starvation (6)
- 23. Quantity (6)
- 24. Beat with a whip (4)
- 25. Having ability (8)

Down

- 2. A salt of acetic acid (7)
- 3. Slender part of the leg (5)
- 4. Migrate (4)
- 5. Cave in (8)
- 6. Costumed procession (7)
- 7. Derange (5)
- 12. Event (8)
- 14. Looking closely (7)
- 16. Love affair (7)
- 18. Benefit (5)
- 20. Enhance (5)
- 21. Drop (4)



Letter to the Editor

Clarification of Te Mato Vai Petition

Dear Editor,
The Petition to stop the TeMato Vai Project is not because it is being driven by a CIP Government. The Government is the Government. It is being objected to because it is full of errors and mistakes and assumptions and the Public have not been consulted. As the Papa say, the Government thinks we are Mushrooms and can be fed bullshit. (Mushrooms grow on bullshit that has been composted)

We have two Parties who at times are as stupid as each other whether they are in Govt or not. Joe Public needs to remember that we are the ones who pay in the end. We the public paid for the Sheraton, we paid for Toagate, we paid for Colagate, we paid for the 1996/7 reforms and the expulsion of 5000 odd Cook Islanders. We paid because "The Government" stuffed things up. They stuff up and Joe Public pays, that's you, me, your grand children, and maybe even your great grandchildren.

It is time for Joe Public to stand up and tell Government enough is enough. Sign the Petition.

Fed up payer

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

AIR NEW ZEALAND

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Prices correct as at 15 February 2014. The 'Seat' option includes a carry-on bag (up to 7kg) but no checked baggage. AIRFARE TRAVEL PERIOD: RAR to AKL/WLG/CHC 10 March 2014 - 26 June 2014. CLOSE OUTS: RAR/AKL 22 April 2014 - 4 May 2014, and AKL/RAR 1 April 2014 - 03 May 2014. DEAL ENDS: 24 February 14. Fares include \$65 Departure Tax. The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares do not accrue Airpoints Dollars and are not eligible for upgrades and or companion tickets. Return airport and government costs will vary. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. CANCELLATIONS/CHANGE FEES: General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details.

The Sharks vs Tupapa Panthers

Tupapa Panthers went to Aitutaki with intent of dominating the Aitutaki Sharks. Panthers are one of the Super Powers of Rugby League in the Cook Islands for many years, and unlike last year's slow start to the competition, they are hitting their straps right from the start. This is a very uncomfortable position for the rest of the Clubs, it seems like the Panthers are have set their goal, a back to back Championship. The young players in the team are a credit to their coaching staff by introducing young players into the Premier Grades Competition.

Aitutaki Sharks have not changed their style, their play is instinct dictated, unstructured; may look brilliant at times, but does not put fear in their opponents. If you dominate the Sharks in the forwards, the rest is history.

This Friday Aitutaki Sharks will be heading to Nukupure Park to challenge the Matavera/Ngatangiia Sea Eagles. This should be a very entertaining encounter as both teams in my view are evenly matched, man on man; this should be a ripper.

All rugby league supporters are encouraged to come out to the fields and support your teams.

Food for thought for the coaches; Rugby League is a game compared to Mathematics' algebra! You have to manipulate your opponent's defence, create opportunities to penetrate the defence line to score tries. When in possession, you dictate play; and without the ball, your defence must be aggressive and fierce to regain possession.

Have fun all...Cheers.....Teuira Ka

This could be the year of the Bulldogs

At Teimurimotia Park, the Titikaveka Bulldogs displayed a very aggressive and a very tight defence game plan. The big and mobile forward pack combining with a classic halves pairing around the ruck, controlled and directed play with precision impact. The second rowers in particular were very dominant with their carry for easy yardage. Backline with the Fijian flyer on the wing may just be the last puzzle to complete a dominant force to reckon for this current season. If the Bulldogs maintain and sustain their workload, they will be a very difficult opponent to topple. We will see how they go this weekend against the Tupapa Panthers; this game should weigh in a better indication as to where they are against the current Premiers.

**Draw Wk 4
Fri Feb 21**

Sea Eagles v Sharks

Nukupure Pk, Muri 5pm

Sat Feb 22

Bears v Eels

Raemaru Pk, Arorangi 4pm

Panthers v Bulldogs,

Victoria Pk, Tupapa, 4pm

BYE – Warriors

Local Rugby league Results Week Three

Sharks 16, Panthers 32

Eels 36, Warriors 6

Bulldogs 32, Bears 12

BYE - Sea Eagles

Simple Simon says....

Unhappy Valley

The inability of the Warriors to control their own enthusiasm when offered a scoring opportunity exposed the inexperienced and youthful look of this team. With huge front rowers not able to put consistent runs together the pack were left to lament opportunities lost through dropped passes or lost balls in the tackle. The Warriors have the potential to climb the next hurdle but don't back themselves enough. Mental toughness is learnt in the battle trenches against the enemy – age and reputation mean nothing - so give it nothing. The Warriors season needs a shot in the arm to get it back on track they have the BYE this week so a bigger drawing board will be needed when talking tactics with the troops. I'm routing for the Warrior – but the Warrior aren't scaring anyone at the moment.

..... So says Simon

....fun time with **RUGBY LEAGUE**

Spot the Differences

Q. How many imports does each club have this week?

A. Panthers (3), Bulldogs (3), Eels (0), Sea Eagles (1), Bears (0), Sharks (0)

Q. How many imports does each club have next week?

A. Panthers (3), Bulldogs (3), Eels (2), Sea Eagles (1), Bears (0), Sharks (0)

Trivia

Q. When is the REF wrong?

A. Never !!!– So players should remember that and get on with the game.

Q. How many referees does it take to change a light bulb?

A. 3 – that's all the officials on the field cause they can't see and get decisions right so somebody please turn the lights on!!!

Q. Who is the best Ref on the island?

A. My dog cause he agrees with me all the time.

Q. Name the player who got sinbinned in last week's Game of the week on TV – Eels v Warriors.

A. # 8 Prop Avatiu Eels Capt Bilsy Gukisuva.

Q. What is a Book End referred to in a League game?

A. A large player who runs with determination.

Q. What's the difference between a GOOD haircut and a BAD hair cut?

A. Two weeks – cause that's how long it takes to grow some back.

How to overcome long standing problems

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

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

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

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

Friend, this woman never gave up. She is a fighter even after 12 long years. Jesus said to this woman in v.34 "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble." This woman

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

believed by Faith; and she acted in Faith; and she was Healed! She did what was humanly possible, and God through Jesus Christ did the impossible!

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

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

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

So friend I encourage you to turn to Jesus and truly

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



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Happy Valentine's Day!

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

Okay, so it's way past Valentine's Day, but don't hate! It's a day where you're supposed to love one another (the exact date doesn't really matter). One thing to mention is that Tereora College (and a few other schools) held their Student Leader Investiture on this special day, so it makes it very memorable. On that note, I would like to welcome my fellow writer, Nadia George, who will be writing about the Investiture. Since she's new, I sacrificed the topic to her (and she better be grateful for it lol).

Here's a little history lesson: Valentine's Day was invented by some Greek person, who was obviously named Valentine (To be on the safe side, you should check out these facts for yourself). These days, people have gotten a lot more creative with this special day: proposing to their spouse on Valentine's, heading down to the beach for

a swim, having dinner at the most expensive restaurant on the island or just chilling back at home with the hubby. To be honest, I've only seen these things happen in the movies, but hey...that doesn't mean that it can't happen in real life.

Anyway, back to Valentine's Day. What we already know is that it's about giving chocolates, roses, wine (if you're old enough), picnics (if you're into that kind of thing) and love to that one special person. Some smart girls in Tereora College took the initiative upon themselves to actually make it happen (with the exception of the wine, of course). They made cute, little baskets of goodies, dressed up as "love fairies" and delivered them around the school. One basket contained a brownie, cupcake, cookie and a note from your "Secret Admirer". My friends and I came up with a plan: We would secretly send a basket to

ourselves and when we received it in class; we'd akamea that it was from someone really hot. Muhahaha!

Sadly, no one was fooled. After the rehearsal for the Investiture, which took a lengthy two hours (or so it seemed) we ate our goodies and exchanged comments. It was a great way to celebrate Valentine's. Oh, I forgot to mention that this took place the day before Valentine's (Thursday 13th), because the Investiture would be on Friday 14th. It didn't really matter to us, because the feeling of being loved was still there.

So, how did you spend your Valentine's Day? Maybe you took your partner somewhere really romantic and expensive. Or, if you wanted to save money instead of spending it, you made a nice, little dinner for the hubby (Can't go wrong with corned beef, bread and moina tai: it's a real budget meal lol) As long as you spent quality time with your



partner, I don't think it really matters if you spend \$100 on a meal at some fancy restaurant or \$20 on cheap food.

Another fact worth mentioning: It was Ioana Turia's Sweet Sixteen on Thursday 13th, so Happy Belated Birthday to her! (Sorry, girl, just had to mention it lol)

Tereora College student leader's investiture

By *Nadia George*

Nadia is a Year 13 student at Tereora College, and a student leader for her Anau, Maungaroa. Her interests are paddling, performing arts and media studies. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends.

With only three weeks into the school year, Tereora has already inducted sixteen new students leaders for 2014. The college's principal Mr. Haque told us, that it was one of the most rigorous selections they've ever had, which made me feel pretty damn proud to have been selected as one.

On Friday 14th, we were all lead into the hall with a traditional turou and even got to sit up on stage with all the important guests and teachers. Looking out into the crowd I was able to see my friends family and peers. Everyone had crammed into the Princess Anne Hall that day, to watch on as all sixteen-student leaders received their badges for the year. Just like last year, four students from each Anau House had been selected to represent the students of

Tereora, myself included. The only difference this year being, that there are no head leaders. Unlike having your traditional head boy and head girl, the senior management team of the college decided to go with the theme of equality for this year. Everyone is equal, as we are all in it together, sailing our great big vaka that is Tereora.

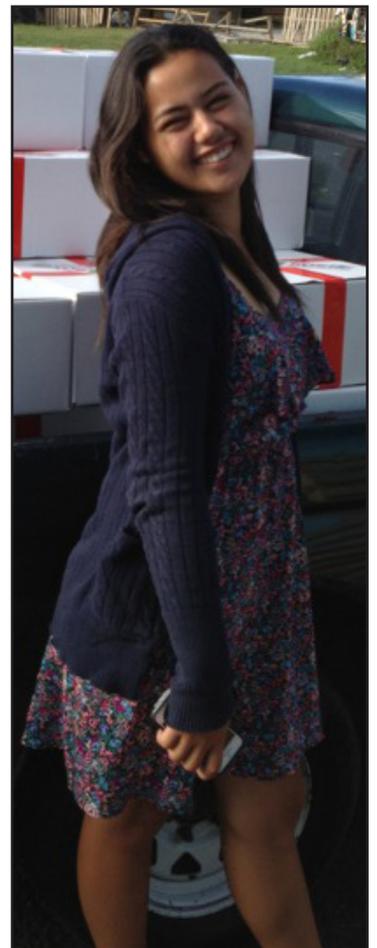
The ceremony was very short but sweet, and we were all grateful for that, as it was extremely hot and humid in the hall. All the speakers for that day kept their speeches to a maximum of 2 minutes; with one student leader representative from each Anau getting up in front of six hundred odd students, to speak on behalf of their Anau. Some had traditional Maori chants in theirs; others went for the subtler, formal and inspiring approach. Once the badges had been presented and speeches being said, all sixteen leaders lined up in front of the stage for their family and friends to come up and "aka ei them". With the ceremony officially over and done with, everyone raced out of the hall to take

photos of themselves piled high with beautiful eis. Then it was kaikai time.

Student leaders of Tereora College for 2014 include: Jessica Puiiri, Heleina Strickland, Bouchard Solomona and Taylor Rangi, for Te Kou. Norma Ngatamariki, Nurse Matangaro and twin brothers Jason and Thomas Potoru for Ikurangi. Ben Toru, May MyoMin, Marina Paptua and Ngatuaine Jessie for Te Manga. April Ngametua, Robyn Moetaua, Ngatokorima Paia and myself, Nadia George, for Maungaroa.

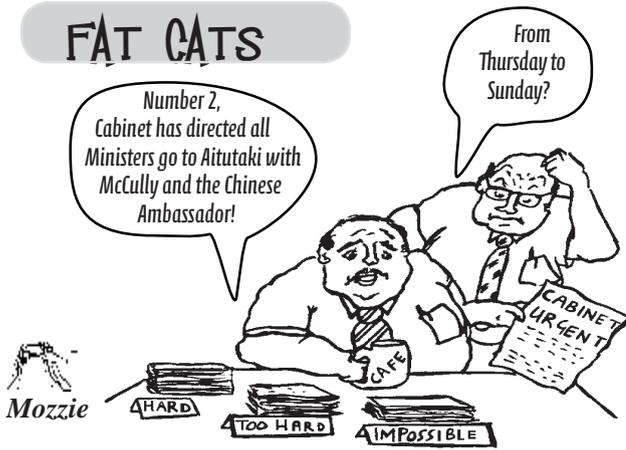
All in all the day was a raging success, with some special people receiving roses and chocolates from partners and secret admirers, because of course who could forget that Feb 14th is Valentine's Day, the day of love and romance.

For some students at Tereora, their journey is just beginning, for others, it's slowly coming to an end, as we all sail together in our vaka, Vaka Tereora. With all sixteen-student leaders invested and ready to rock, we can only hope to make our final year at Tereora a good one. Here's to another year



of school. Bring on twenty-fourteen. Kia Toa!

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



It seems Demo wonder boy Drolley's finger pointing at this publication is a bit rich coming from a once highly paid govt official whose fabrications, fiction, lies and outright premeditated dishonesty got him 12 months in the mother of all stews of like behaving residents rent free or was that all a fabrication? Not happy with his huge pay packet and numerous perks, pride and greed got the better of him. What about the \$24,000 of public funds that never got paid back that was used to build his Tupapa mansion not to mention an outstanding public debt of \$21,000 owed to a government agency? Or is that another misleading fabrication? Boasting he could take his former benevolent sponsor to court is just more misleading sloppy dribble. Talk about accuracy coming from a finance guru who cooked the books in a stew of his own. Kata got it wrong, it was Drolley who was working in the tax funded kitchen no doubt learning how to fabricate stews. He makes the one night resident non tax payer dependent self employed Junior Areai look like a saint.

After 12 months on the Demo policy committee their overpaid CEO with so called economic skills couldn't come up with a tax policy let alone organise a Party website so James B had to write one himself in all of twenty minutes that it took. The highly embarrassed Drolley failed to sabotage it but the rest of the committee gave it their stamp of endorsement. It seems things flow better

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED

when the self praising Drolley is absent doing his own private businesses while being paid by the taxpayer through the opposition office. Lots more next week.

The new editor at the daily dribble must have had a hangover, the usually visually pleasant front page the other day was a visual mumbo jumbo with instead of two stories and a photo he had four stories, two of them seriously detrimental to our biggest money earner. The major story was on dengue with a top of the page story about a crime wave against tourists in Puaikura. Just the kind of alarming stuff that gets visitor cancellations. If this keeps up our politicians will start censoring nationally damaging news just like Fiji and Samoa does.

Someone ought to give the aging daily dribble editor a calculator because he can't count. After stating his new rules for letters to himself including letters must be 300 words or less, he publishes one from Tim Tepaki praising Elvis Puna to the tune of 670 words.

Talk about trying to stamp his mark, Edrey's double standards indicate he can't be trusted because he doesn't mean or do what he says. Send your letters to the real cutting edge paper. Timber would be better off sticking to the telephone abusing street kids at least she could of only got better.

At the final rally for the CIP in Murienua last Saturday the small turn out wasn't worthy of a key note speech from the PM Puna. Puna is saving his key note speeches for overseas audiences unlike the locals who can't hear what top Rooster Elvis (Don't be Cruel) Puna is saying because of their envy of his power over the hens. The unashamed, aspiring, waiting in the rooster wings PM presently "call me DPM" T Heather took to the floor and set about humiliating Puna. Leadership isn't about singing, kissing the girls or frequent flying bellowed Heather. It's about driving a bulldozer, the PM can't drive one nor can anyone else in Cabinet but only him. That's what the country needs! Action, getting the job done. Talk about the CIP version of Edy Drolley. If driving

machinery is the evidence of national leadership then the tractor driving Turepu will be his deputy. And the word is the DPM wasn't even drunk, but he had better learn to sing the CIP love anthem if he wants to be the bulldozing leader or Aitutaki will dump him off the wharf and tell him to swim back to the nut house he came from. Bulldozer, what a space cadet.

Oopps poor Eddie has dropped a clanger! Singing the praises of the in cruise tabloid of the SS Daily for its accuracy, poor Eddie should glance at the opposite page which mentions last year's Ministerial chin wag in Queensland! The chin wag was actually in Queenstown NZ! Well, they were half right!

Oh dear chooks, new Captain at the helm of the SS Daily, Bark De Fray, is cancelling bookings by loyal letter writers who now have no option but to re-book in first class, aboard the super liner, the SS Weekly! With the super liner SS Weekly able to accommodate the longer letters, further bookings are expected!

Cook Islands
HERALD
PMG
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VACANCY



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund ("CINSF") is a national superannuation scheme designed to assist all employees save for their retirement.

The Fund is currently seeking an experienced, pragmatic, and energetic Chief Executive Officer with proven experience in meeting targets to effectively manage and oversee the Fund's business operations and continue to build and develop the business in accordance with the Cook Islands National Superannuation Act, Trust Deed, vision and values.

Based in Parekura, Rarotonga, this varied and challenging role requires a strategic business manager with strong operational experience and proven leadership qualities.

Reporting to the Cook Islands National Superannuation Board, the CEO will contribute to the direction and operations of CINSF by developing strategy for the business and effectively directing and developing the team (Operations, Client Services, Risk and Compliance and Administration Services) in the provision of all services to our members, employers and service providers.

The CEO will develop and build strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, manage staff to achieve key business objectives; monitor the industry, market and trends and undertake business development and marketing activities to ensure continued high member satisfaction and engagement levels.

Essential Criteria

- Minimum of 5 years experience in a senior management role
- Demonstrated capacity for clear strategic thinking, planning and problem solving
- Strong leadership, interpersonal & communications skills
- High level of business development and marketing skills
- Proven record of success in human resources and leadership
- High degree of commercial & business acumen, strong understanding of financial management and budgetary control skills
- Experienced in the operational management of ICT and Office Administration
- Ability to develop new innovative solutions that address structural and operational barriers that stand in the way of achieving successful business outcomes
- Capacity to effectively represent and promote the business and its vision and values

Applications are to be in writing, (including applicant's CV and the names of two referees) to be addressed to the CINSF Acting Chairman.

Applications to be delivered to the Office of the Financial Secretary or emailed to richard.neves@cookislands.gov.ck no later than 4.00pm, Monday 3 March 2014. All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence. A job description can be obtained by emailing etuatina.drollett@cookislands.gov.ck

VACANCIES



Applications are invited from qualified, motivated and experienced professionals for the position of Communications and Media Coordinator.

Applicants will be required to:

- Develop and manage the Ministry's annual media programme.
- Create and manage content for the Ministry's Website.
- Support compliance with the OIA
- Support staff in the development and use of multimedia for professional development and presentations.

Applicants should have

- 2-3 years experience managing communications or media projects.
- Knowledge of and operational experience with media hardware and software (Final Cut, Photoshop) including website management
- Excellent Communication (oral and written) including report writing, preferably in both CI Maori and English
- Tertiary qualification major in the following areas: marketing, communications, journalism, public relations or equivalent.

A full job description and application pack is available from the Ministry website at: www.education.gov.ck

Please send completed application forms 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 on Wednesday 26 February 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CHINA CIVIL ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
(CCECC)**

CCECC has been appointed the general contractor for the construction of the Rarotonga Ring Mains in the Mato Vai project. CECC is now commencing to source local services and resources.

In particular we are seeking expressions of interest for the following:

- Labourers for trench digging, pipeline laying, backfilling and other physical works (CV required);
- Machinery hire including excavators, trucks, loaders, trailers, water trucks, as well as fuels;
- Building materials including sand, aggregates, cement, blocks; and
- Chip sealing for road repair.

Service providers and contractors should contact Mr. Nicky Nie, Assistant Project Manager of CCECC. Phone 29396 or Email: niekefeng@gmail.com

VACANCY



TE MATO VAI

The Cook Islands Water Partnership with the
People's Republic of China & New Zealand

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TE MATO VAI PROJECT LAUNCH
PROGRAM**

The public is hereby advised that there will be a disruption to traffic at the roundabout in Avarua on Wednesday 19 February 2014 around 10am to allow the installation of the Te Mato Vai monument beside the office of the New Zealand High Commission; this work will take approximately 30 minutes.

On Thursday 20 November 2014 between the hours of 8am and 12pm, the roundabout in Avarua will be closed to allow for the Te Mato Vai project launch program.

During these hours traffic will be diverted in the following areas:

1. Traffic travelling from Tupapa village will be diverted to the Empire Theatre road
2. Traffic travelling from Avatiu/Ruatonga area will be diverted to the Energy Centre road

The Cook Islands Police will be at each of these areas to assist with the diversion of traffic. All enquiries to Daryl Rairi, Deputy Project Manager, telephone 55064 or email daramide@oyster.net.ck

PUBLIC NOTICE



TE MATO VAI

The Cook Islands Water Partnership with the
People's Republic of China & New Zealand

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
FOR THE PROCUREMENT
OF SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TE
MATO VAI PROJECT DETAILED DESIGNS**

The Project Management Unit (PMU) for the Te Mato Vai project invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced parties for the purpose of the development of detailed designs for Stage 2 of the Te Mato Vai on the island of Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

The EOI documents will be available from the PMU office at the Infrastructure Cook Islands Compound, Arorangi or downloaded from the WATSAN website <http://watsan.gov.ck/water-partnership> and the Pacific Water and Wastes Association website <http://www.pwwa.ws/> member's page and the Cook Islands Government Procurement website <http://www.procurement.gov.ck/> Complete EOI proposals must be delivered to the address below before 12pm, Cook Islands time on 28 February 2014 in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "TMC-EOI.001/2014 Expression of Interest – Detailed Design for the Te Mato Vai Project" to the following address:

Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit
PO Box 3286
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

All enquiries to:
Project Manager
latu@kews.com.ws
Phone: +682 28 851
Mobile: +682 52 807

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Aitutaki in top ten on TripAdvisor

Trip advisor have named Aitutaki as the 7th Best Island in the world for 2014.

In the Best Pacific Islands, Aitutaki took second place with Rarotonga taking fifth on the top ten list. The following is a article taken from their website

Planning an island vacation? TripAdvisor the world's largest travel site, can help you choose which island to visit it with its Travelers' Choice Islands. In its second year, the travel site created a list of the Top 10 Islands in the World, in the U.S., Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, South America and the South Pacific, recognizing more than 100 islands around the globe.

"There is something transporting about an island vacation, and these Travelers' Choice Islands winners will help travelers find their next escape," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor. "From the coral reefs of Ambergris Caye to the beaches of Ko Tao, these winning islands have been highly rated from travelers around the globe."

The Travelers' Choice Island winners were determined based on the quality and quantity of the most highly-rated hotels, restaurants, and attractions listed for each island on TripAdvisor gathered during a 12-month period.

Here are TripAdvisor's Top 10 Islands in the World:

- Ambergris Caye, Belize
- Providenciales, Turks and Caicos
- Bora Bora, French Polynesia



Lagoon near Aitutaki

- Marco Island, Florida
- Lewis and Harris, Scotland
- Naxos, Greece
- Aitutaki, Cook Islands
- Nosy Be, Madagascar
- Easter Island, Chile
- Ko Tao, Thailand

Top 10 Islands in the U.S.:

- Marco Island, Florida
- Chincoteague Island, Virginia
- Anna Maria Island, Florida
- San Juan Island, Washington
- Maui, Hawaii
- Kauai, Hawaii
- Island of Hawaii, Hawaii
- Nantucket, Massachusetts
- Hilton Head, South Carolina
- Key West, Florida

For the complete list of winners from the 2014 Travelers' Choice Islands, as well as reviews and candid traveler photos, go to www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice-Islands.

VACANCY



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
VACANCY
CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR**

The Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) is seeking qualified, motivated and experienced individuals for the position of Chief Electrical Inspector. Relevant qualification and experience in Electrical systems, Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Renewable Energy regulatory and standards is highly desirable. Preference will be given to individuals with a strong understanding of emerging changes in the Electrical sector, Solar PV systems, and Power systems in the Outer Islands. Applicants must be computer literate and possess very good written and oral communications skills in both English and Cook Islands Maori.

All applicants must be submitted in confidence with a covering letter, updated CV, evidence of qualifications delivered either by emailing to mac.mokoroa@ici.gov.ck or hard copy inside a sealed envelope addressed to:

Mr. Mac Mokoroa
Secretary
Infrastructure Cook Islands
PO Box 102
RAROTONGA

For further queries or copy of the Job description, please contact Diane Charlie-Puna on ph 20321 ext 705 or email diane.puna@ici.gov.ck. Applications will close 3pm Friday 28 February 2014.