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Minister Brown's BTIB comments and appointment challenged



Finance Minister Mark Brown



Former BTIB Board Chairman George Pitt

Finance Minister Mark Brown's comments in the CI News on Tuesday 11 March concerning the appointment of a new BTIB chairman cannot go uncontested because he is misleading the public. When Brown signed George Pitt's notice of removal on Thursday 6 March as Chairman of BTIB he also signed a warrant of appointment for his friend Stuart Henry as the replacement Chairman.

Brown had been under pressure from Henry for being over looked for a Board position and that his intended appointment to the Tourism Board was not accepted by some current members of the CITC Board.

Pitt's sacking had nothing to do with being incompetent or misconduct as the Chairman of BTIB but everything to do with articles critical of government published in this

newspaper and an interview with the Don on Matariki FM radio on the morning of the 6 March. The interview was recorded and later replayed before midday on Radio Cook Islands.

In the CI News article Brown claims a new chairman was in the process of being appointed. Brown

Minister Turepu was not aware of the appointment till the warrant was delivered to him on the same day

states the selection for new board members includes discussion among Cabinet members for potential candidates, who are then invited for an interview. Both these statements are untrue and misleading.

The Minister of BTIB Kiriau Turepu had no knowledge

Stuart Henry had been appointed by Brown as the new chairman. It had not been discussed in Cabinet on 6 March when it was convened for the purpose of removing Pitt as chairman. Henry's warrant of appointment was delivered to the BTIB office by Brown's ministry support office CEO Nooroa Roi on

Friday 7 March.

Minister Turepu was not aware of the appointment till the warrant was delivered to him on the same day. Turepu was advised not to accept Henry's warrant of appointment by Brown but to appoint an interim chairman from within the

Board of Directors till he could decide on a chairman of his own choosing. At this week's Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 11 March Minister Turepu was expected to nominate his choice as Pitt's replacement leaving Stuart Henry out in the cold once more. There is a vacancy for a Board member on the Airport Authority Henry could demand.

The haste at which Pitt was removed and replaced by Henry was complicated when Crown Law's Kim Saunder's prepared notice of removal of Pitt as the BTIB chairman did not include his removal as a Director of the Board which will require another notice of removal.

Pitt represented by lawyer Brian Mason is seeking clarification from Brown to specify the incompetency and misconduct reasons stated for his removal. - George Pitt

Moving towards a tax free society by increasing returns on sustainable assets

By Charles Pitt

Can a case be made for abolishing income tax? Certainly. Should a case be made for getting rid of income tax? Yes.

Why consider abolishing income tax? It is because as a revenue stream for government, it will soon become unsustainable if depopulation continues and the tax base (income earning population) shrinks. A few years ago, MFEM began warning government it will need to seek new revenue streams if government's operational costs continued to rise.

If possible, we should look to phase out income tax without significantly increasing consumption taxes (like VAT) to compensate, without introducing user pays and without raising the cost of living through inflationary pressures brought about by people having more money to spend on consumable goods such as cars and TVs.

Tahiti has no income tax and in the USA, seven States (Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming and Washington) do not require the payment of State income tax because they generate income from other taxes like sales taxes, property and fuel taxes. The only downside for Tahiti and these US States is the high cost of living because theirs are consumption taxes. Also, all these US States except for North Dakota have high unemployment levels.

Tahiti, like the Cook Islands, has tourism and fishing as major industries but it also relies on large budgetary support from France. The Chinese proposals to mount major developments in Tahiti come at an opportune time for Tahiti whose tourism

industry has suffered from the impact of monetary problems in Europe, where most of its tourists come from.

Despite a steady increase in tourists, the Cook Islands has a national unemployment level of 8% but Rarotonga's last reported unemployment level was 58% (among those aged 15 yrs and up actively seeking work). We have a high cost of living due to the high volume of imports from NZ and a dwindling population and tax base. At present we have high expenditure levels on infrastructure but no equivalent private sector investment or development of any significance to balance spending on infrastructure. There has been no significant growth in GDP in recent years except for a 1% increase last year.

Taxation as a revenue stream is nearing its limit and the Cook Islands should consider generating income not from further increasing consumption taxes like VAT, but by maximizing returns on our natural assets for example, lifting the fees paid by foreigners to exploit our natural resources. Access to our natural resources is a privilege for which there must be a price, a steep price.

Income tax in the Cook Islands generates around \$26 million for government each year. Interestingly, this figure includes the income tax paid by public servants whose pay comes from general taxes.

Public servants, nearly 1,800 of them, make up a significant portion of the taxpaying populace although they themselves generate very little income.

The Cook Islands has a small population, less than 20,000 but enormous natural assets in fish and sea bed

minerals. With these assets, why not maximize the returns and reduce dependency on income tax?

Sure, the fish resource requires careful joint-regional management due to population, economic, environmental and climatic pressures to ensure sustainability however, humans have to eat so there will always be a demand for fish no matter what the cost.

The sea bed mineral resource is so vast it will take well over a thousand years to run out but sustainability of revenue is dependent on the economic return and this is affected by competition with other nations who have a similar resource. For example, the USA has vast

Cobalt resources which it hasn't even begun to exploit.

Limited land area restricts our ability to make significant economic gains from land based agriculture but again, the world still has to eat so any contribution has value. Land based agriculture can be integrated with marine farming (edible sea weed, shell fish, prawns, sea salt) and fish farming using the huge, deep lagoons in the northern group.

The introduction of five-six star tourism will add value and new jobs to the tourism sector. While the number of budget tourists is increasing each year, there is no significant tourist accommodation

Continued bottom page 9



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

So far ... so good.



Here we are in the second week of March ... and so far so good. Two thirds of the season is gone and no cyclones yet.

Still, there is another six weeks to go before the season is over.

So be safe in case we do get a bad one soon. Have the following items on hand:

- Torches and candles to see at night.
- Battery operated radio to hear the latest news.
- Food that you can store without refrigeration.

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Lies, hypocrisy and more lies over business hand up

Finance Minister Mark Brown may have a USP Masters in Business Administration (MBA) hanging proudly on a wall as a decoration somewhere but whatever business theory he internalised during his studies are far from evident in his administration of the Ministry of Finance. Time has caught up with Brown who is about to experientially understand the consequences and gravity of his cast off comments.

Brown was backed and heralded by the Chamber of Commerce when he started promoting the Cook Islands Party government as being business friendly with intentions to promote business opportunities and conditions to stimulate the economy.

Political rhetoric of good intentions, or was it the start of economic spin doctoring bordering on lies to keep the COC passive in the CIP faith and politically supportive? Brown without a doubt has the gift of the gab but time and distance from those promises has proven Brown is dismissive and seriously lacking in fiscal substance and he should be held accountable for his empty grandiose promises of economic opportunity.

Giving the appearances he would deliver the goods, Brown has amplified his total trust in his Finance Secretary Richard Neves who predictably has done him no political favours, in fact Neves' incompetence and misconduct has single handed cost the CIP any chance of being anything more than a one term government. Backing Neves is like believing the pokies will deliver a winner if you keep feeding it, simply a huge political gamble that on reflection when the CIP are tossed from power Brown will realise Neves was a loser from day one.

In February 2011 the ambitious Brown made some bold economic statements he now wishes no one remembers as his naive promises



Its only a matter of time before Finance Minister Brown wipes the smirk off 'neneva' Neves' face.

are coming back to haunt him as being nothing but political window dressing. He said, "In fact, what we are looking at doing is to provide an environment to actually thrive..."

and increasing economic activity and getting our gains from that." "I'm getting some economic modelling done..."

With no intellectual ability to

his side kick Neves for innovative solutions, but Neves lack of successful business experience and economic theory could only devise a worst case scenario of increasing taxes, levies and government service fees. What additional proof is needed that whoever hired Neves needs to admit a serious mistake was made?

Three days on 15 February 2011 before Brown delivered at his media conference his pledge to deliver a private sector friendly driven economy, the Cabinet had endorsed (Cabinet minute CM11 -049) a Taskforce five point strategic priority recommended to them for

Brown has amplified his total trust in his Finance Secretary Richard Neves who predictably has done him no political favours

Brown continued to excite the business community when he said "What we're trying to do is create revenues by increasing productivity

deliver one creative thought to reduce the cost of business as a component of a development driven economy Brown has had to turn to

the 2011/2012 Budget.

1. Energise and grow the economy by supporting our key economic drivers and advancing innovation in potential areas of growth;
2. Enable enterprise by establishing a environment conducive for existing businesses to grow and for new businesses to start, stay and thrive in our communities;
3. Reduce the cost of doing business and cost of living, and increase the disposable income of our people;
4. Re-orientate the public sector to better support and respond to the needs of the economy; and
5. Develop infrastructure that will support economic growth.

With synergised advice and assistance from the Business community all the points were doable, but Neves resistance to external help and the possibility Brown would be exposed to alternative resources and advisers ensured the priority strategy remained within the MFEM fortress. For all his verbal flatulence Brown hasn't produced one credible policy that has actually reduced the cost of doing business.

The John Tierney lead Task Force in 2011 summed up their intensive feasibility study with over 200 recommendations with detailed action plans to help Brown develop a sustainable economy based on development but hardly if any got implemented let alone any at all. The report

challenged government to do things differently but the inability of Neves to embrace the agenda of Government and develop it into a materialised reality is more than enough reason for Brown to practise what he preaches when appointees fail to follow government's agenda. Just as he sacked George Pitt for the incompetence of adhering to government's agenda so too must Cabinet sack Neves.

In the meantime doing business in the Cook Islands will cost more having another hurdle to climb; the increased VAT that Brown lied would not happen is an economic strangler that will be the last straw that breaks the camel's back for many businesses barely able to stay afloat under the present tax stresses. This drop in revenue will increase Brown and Neves' desperation to sell Cook Islands shares in our national treasure Telecom Cook Islands. After three years of desperate measures bordering on incompetency Brown is yet to learn only to promise what you know you can deliver.

If sold to Digicel, as much as 30 skilled jobs at TCI will be lost as Digicel's different business model includes central administration in either the Caribbean or Singapore. Neves' wombat concept of business has him vindicating the downsizing as an indicator TCI is inefficient justifying skilled Cook Islanders to be laid off.

When questioned on a Matariki FM radio interview about the state of government's increasing layer of problems and public criticism Brown launched a barrage of lies condemning the media for creating misleading perceptions. Rather than

take a long look in the mirror and question his own political morality, like many cornered politicians they exorcise their own demons by shooting the messenger.

Unable to face the reality the CIP government has embarked on a self destructive pathway to inevitable political oblivion, instead of getting their house in order and purging their lying mouths they take out their anger on those who dare to challenge their hypocrisy

and expose them without fear or favour.

The CIP government is haemorrhaging with a serious trust deficit. Brown's economic forecasting has reinforced the CIP trait of being big on talk but small on delivery. Brown the COC's economic Messiah has turned out to be a false prophet who must now relinquish the fiscal baton and pass it on to someone who can successfully finish the job. - George Pitt

WARNING

Major Cyclone predicted

Political commentator and forecaster George Pitt is turning his cognitive insights into weather forecasting. Pitt is claiming resident Prophet Biblical scholar Ngarima George has delivered a God imparted prophecy to the Government and the failure of our political leaders to respond will evoke a spiritual backlash against Rarotonga the country's centre of political power.

The backlash will come in the form of a major cyclone that will shake the very roots of Rarotonga, this is God's sign our CIP government has erred from its responsibility to care for society's vulnerable citizens. The Bible says God chastens those He loves and to get our attention to turn back to Him there is calamity and disruption to our lives.

The warning to our political leaders to stop abusing your power over the people and love them as your privileged service to God will be very clear by the irreparable destruction of the Nikao Parliament building.

In eight days on the 20th March a great cyclone will hit Rarotonga, eight in scripture represents resurrection or a new beginning. For those who are able to discern spiritual forecasting or prophecy they will understand crisis and calamity signal the beginning of a new start. The account of Noah and the great flood is an example of this Biblical principle.

It is a time for the prayer warriors to take heed and begin to repent for our nation's wrong doings through intercessory prayers. This will not stop the cyclone but it will protect those who are spiritually covered. I call upon everyone to make practical preparations. Stock up on plenty of drinkable water and food supplies. Take every precaution to protect your homes as advised by the Disaster Management staff. Have alternative lighting resources like torches or lamps. Store dry wood in case it is your best resource for cooking. Please read the advice given in your phone book. - George Pitt

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Our Frontpage model Taxing NZ pension removes incentive for Cook Islanders to return home

By Charles Pitt

A change of strategy is what may be needed if Grey Power is to be more effective in getting government to consider its stance to back taxing the NZ pension.

What would make government sit up and pay more attention to Grey Power is if a representative was to go to NZ and speak to members of the Cook Islands community. Cook Islanders in NZ looking to return home to retire and bring their NZ pensions with them should now understand that their NZ pension will be taxed. This no longer makes a return home attractive considering the costs of relocating. NZ based Cook Islanders would not accept explanations that the tax is to pay for social services like health and education because there are far better health facilities in NZ and as retired people, their education is past.

Previous governments knew that the non-tax policy that had been in place for some 17 years, was a major factor in persuading Cook Islanders to return home. The government has changed this policy without any prior consultation with NZ based Cook Islanders, the very people they are trying to attract home.

The NZ government is also aware of this and so adopted a neutral stance to the decision by earlier Cook Islands governments to adopt a policy of non-taxing the NZ pension. The NZ government left the decision up to the Cook Islands government.

It is still not clear why the policy was changed, who promoted the change and why. Where is the incentive now for NZ based Cook Islanders to return home?



Our Frontpage girl for Herald issue 708 is 18 year old Amelia Moetaua. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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Memories of my fallen M.P. Friends

By Norman George MP for
Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

Twenty nine M.P.s that I have served with have now passed away. I wish to share some of the experiences I had with them.

Tiriamate Ngatokorua was the ex-principle of Mangaia College. He won the Ivirua seat. He came in as a Demo Candidate but defected to the CIP. He was in for two terms and died while still serving as MP for Ivirua. He was quietly spoken, smart and well behaved.

Mii Parima was CIP MP for Tamarua. He was the most unorthodox MP I ever served with. He followed no rules. There was no such thing as caucus discipline. If Mii had work to do in Tamarua, he will hop on Air Rarotonga and fly to Mangaia. No word, no song, no message to his colleagues. He comes and goes to Parliament whenever it suits him. Apart from that, he was quietly spoken. I believe he was a top grower and farmer in Mangaia.

Pukeiti Pukeiti came in to replace Mii Parima when Mii died in office. Pukeiti was an elderly man. He was highly respected and Captain of the Tamarua Boys Brigade. A dedicated CIP Papa Pukeiti did not tolerate fools easily. He also had health problems which led to his untimely death after serving as MP for Tamarua for about 3 years.

Papamama Pokino was a rod of lightning which sparked wherever he went. He was a black belt Karate exponent and fitness fanatic. He observed his eating habits, strictly. Fish and rice were his main meals. No taro or chips. The only

downside to all that strictness was his heavy reliance on drinking cold beer. It was cold beer for breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner. Aggressive, stubborn, fearless, with Mangaia everywhere in him. If you point out to Pa about being naughty, he will scoff it off by saying the Mangaia people will call him a hero! At one time he had a carnal adventure with a lady from Niue, while we all froze at reports of his misconduct; Pa laughed it off as if it was nothing! He was a Cabinet Minister in both the Demo government and the CIP government. A civil engineer by profession, he held his own and was respected by people from Takuvaine where he played A grade rugby. Pa retired to Auckland where he spent his leisure times in the TAB and pub. With all his fitness and self discipline gone, he suffered ill health leading to his passing. He was a true Mangaian warrior!

Papa Tangata Simiona, or Papa "leave it to me". A true tamanu tree of Atiu. A huge man physically, he had a very successful career as a school teacher and Inspector. Oratory, Atiu folklore culture and traditions were areas of his expertise. No Atiu function was ever complete without Papa Ta. He was a true Metua of Enuamanu.

Papa Mariri Paratainga was a powerful figure in Atiu. He led Atiu from the front. Whenever it was loading or unloading cargo in rough seas, planting and harvesting pineapples, he led Atiu physically. His style in the Atiu community was based on naming and

shaming. Either you are with me or you are not. "Te aronga ngoru, oki kit e kainga!" "You lazy ones, go home!" He was one rare dynamic Atiu. Like his namesake Mariri-tutu-a-manu-Papa Ma leaves behind legendary godlike memories.

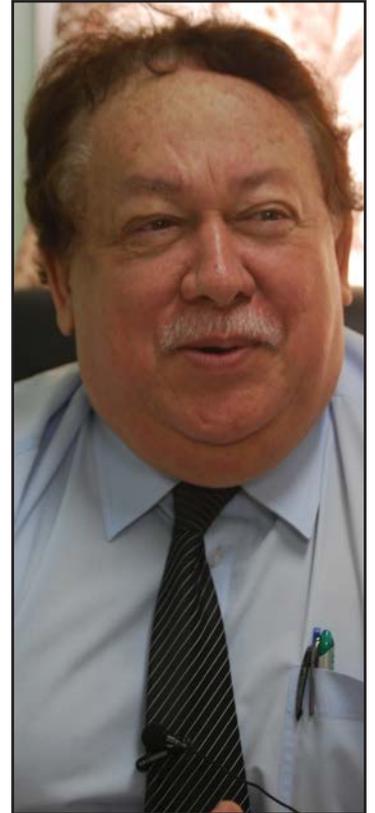
Vaine Tairea was a gifted Mauke warrior. He had the gift of the gab. In his youth, he used to play in a band in Wellington, A good planter in his own right, Vaine motivated many Maukens to plant. He was a devoted CIP. Not the tidiest of individuals many people called him "Pute" meaning "boastful" "empty sack". He did tend to exaggerate a lot, but many of my Uke brothers are like that. Never spoil a good conversation with facts! He can debate both in English and Maori. He was one rare and truly gifted Mauken.

Sir Tangaroa Tangaroa or Papa Tangaroa Tangaroa was one classical Penrhyn Islander of legendary standing. He was old school. He met Ellenore Roosevelt when she visited American troops based in Penrhyn during the 2nd world war.

He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 1960's. He started life as a radio operator. During his tenure he never lost a single election. The people of Penrhyn worshipped him.

When angry his voice would turn into high pitch then continue on to engage arguing rottweiler style – firm grip, no release.

He was fun to be with. He was a Cabinet Minister and retired from Parliament as Queens Representative



Teppure Tapaitau was a Policeman who had a successful career to become Commissioner of Police. He graduated with a law degree from Auckland University. He was elected as CIP MP, although he claimed to be a Demo. He had an overbearing personality. He was big and tall, some people called him Idi Amin (the Ugandan Dictator) when he was in full Police Commissioner Uniform.

His laughter was contagious. He was a heavy drinker of bourbon and coke. When drunk, I tried to avoid him. He tended to bear-hug everyone closest, especially young girls. I awarded him the QSM to reward the Police for top performances during Cyclone Sally in 1987. Good fun to be with, devious, cunning but absolutely likeable!

Cook Islands Party's one chance of survival - Remove Brown and Neves

If the Prime Minister Henry Puna can't muster the leadership courage and moral integrity to sack his Minister of Finance Mark Brown and the Finance Secretary Richard Neves for incompetency and misconduct, then he should be replaced with someone who can.

Brown and Neves must be held to account for the current crisis this government has gifted the people of the Cook Islands. Brown must be held accountable to the blatant lies he has told the public. On Friday 18 February 2011 at a media conference he convened Brown said "there is no truth at all" to the speculation that government had plans to increase taxes.

He also said "In fact we're looking at ways where we can try and ease the tax burden on people..." That claim of fact has turned out to be anything but fact, a lie it has now proven to be, misconduct? Brown has grossly misled the public and must be held accountable for this blatant misleading misconduct.

Or should we give him the benefit of doubt? Was he speaking before he had the approval of neneva Neves his treasury tag team side kick who can no longer conceal he wags Brown's tail. Was the PM Puna also lying earlier this year when he tried to excuse his government's gross uncaring cruel misconduct of raiding the Grey Power member's bank accounts?

Puna called a media conference to blame his treasury officials and promised



Prime Minister Henry Puna

to reimburse the funds alleged to have been illegally extracted from personal Bank accounts. To this date, more than ten weeks later not one cent has been reimbursed or an apology been made to the individuals who have had their personal privacy indecently violated, if that's not cruel what is Mr Puna?

Puna unwisely made the reimbursement promise in the absence of Neves who was overseas on holiday, because when Neves returned the PM's efforts to spin doctor his way out of the public outrage was censured with

Neves putting a condition of his own on the process for reimbursement. So much for the soothing words of blatant lies delivered by the mouth of Henry Puna, if that's not cruel what is?

demonstrate he was worthy of being the Prime Minister because there was no effort to pull Andrew Haigh or Neves into line with CIP policy or Constitution.

And where was Mark Brown while all this charade of officials being disciplined was being publically paraded? As usual being a wimp falling in subjection to

"In fact we're looking at ways where we can try and ease the tax burden on people..."

The Cook Islands Party Government is cruel, uncaring and believes in their own lies. While Puna gave the impression he was prepared to chastise his Treasury officials for the misconduct towards our vulnerable elderly citizens he didn't

Neves' dingo culture. Brown's serious lack of fiscal acumen and over supply of portfolios has spread himself thin and incapable of mastering any of them rendering himself dependent on the incompetent Neves.

Except for Minister Teina

Bishop who broke ranks with Cabinet and went public questioning the legality of the bank raids, the rest remained cowardly silent and incapable of restoring public confidence in the CIP government. How can Puna or Brown expect the public to trust the words that come out of their mouths, because time is the proof of their confession is blatant lies and not acceptable from two of our most senior Politicians.

Dumb founded by the shock Treasury would mentally abuse insecure old people, the innovation void in Cabinet left them with no solution to prevent further raids that were unashamedly justified by Tax Director Haigh in a media statement which added to the public perception Puna had lost control of the bureaucrats.

When the BTIB decided to impose a new condition to Westpac Bank's Foreign Enterprise Registration that required a High Court order to extract depositor's funds,

Neves, Kim Saunders and the Finance Supervision Commissioner rallied to stop BTIB's imitative to create a due process that gave depositors and the Bank some protection of their savings. While BTIB refused to buckle to the trifector's pressure they managed to convince by scare mongering the Cabinet to intervene and remove the issue off BTIB.

To this date the people's money has no due process for third party extraction, just another example of a weak lazy government endowed with self serving and self enrichment at the expense of the plight of societies most vulnerable, such a blatant inexcusable act of misconduct.

Minister of Internal Affairs Nandi Glassie must also front up to the elderly victims of government's propaganda lies and victimisation and explain why he remained silent over the mistreatment

of the venerable, the very people he is responsible to protect and care for, what an absolute shame.

Brown is now caught in another Neves' incompetent acts of mismanaging the economy, heaping himself with self praise over the local pensioner's benefits prior to the first revised pay out. The Minister is now spinning an avalanche of lies pointing his crooked finger at the Internal Affairs administration. Or will he have the moral fibre and courage to deal with the architect of another electoral disaster for the CIP or will Neves continue to defy his incompetent political masters?

Praising their efforts of giving the Pensioners an extra \$50 a fortnight, this misleading lie was revealed for what it is after shocked pensioners were received payments less than the normal \$200 per fortnight even after the increase. Better off they would be Brown and

Neves had boasted! Better off to the taxman, talk about political tricksters.

When disgruntled pensioners turned up to his Ministerial office to express their anger and displeasure at the tax deductions from their pensions Brown and his CEO Nora Roi were very quick to try and redirect the blame elsewhere. Just more lies to fudge the government's gross incompetence.

This is a government who last week sacked the Chairman of the BTIB for incompetence and misconduct, just another misleading bunch of lies to cover up their abuse of power in the form of lying to the people. Brown and his neneva Neves side kick have to go, how many premeditated crafted lies must they be allowed to tell before Puna puts his foot down?

If it was ever a time not to trust the words of the Government it is now.

- George Pitt

Moving towards a tax free society

From page 3

development and therefore few new job opportunities in the hotel sector. Our scenery and people are great natural resources but the bigger spending 5-6 star tourist won't come until we have the high class facilities and services expected by that level of traveler.

The challenge therefore for innovative thinkers is how to maximize the returns from these natural assets to kick start a phased transition towards a tax free society.

Comments Innovation versus economic theory?

In our current situation, government's financial updates are only reporting on how well or otherwise government is managing its budget, not how well society is performing. Social indicators such as average disposable

household income, rate of unemployment, parity of opportunity per gender (pay parity, job parity, etc) are needed to provide a more balanced report.

Currently lacking is any indication of the level of, support for and investment in, innovativeness especially in the private sector. Innovation drives business development not theory.

Government needs to revisit the recommendations which came out of the previous economic task force exercises. Those consultations with the public were extensive, resulted in some innovative ideas emerging and would be costly to go through again.

Maximise returns from our assets

(1) We have a large EEZ rich in fish and sea bed minerals. The current returns from

these assets do not reflect the value of them and this imbalance needs to be redressed. For example, the landed value of the albacore tuna at Pago from our EEZ was reported by MMR as \$70 million. Our return was \$8 million from fishing licenses. Our benefit stops at the licensing stage. Either we seek to gain a greater share of the landed value by increasing our participation in the industry or raise the level of the license fee for foreign vessels.

(2) As to our sea bed minerals resource, one company, Endeavour Mining of Canada, was prepared to advance up \$30 million for exploration. That was before mining blocks were established. If some 30 other companies were to do the same that would put over \$900 million into government

coffers. This amount could be used to retire all debts and loans. Government would also be able to provide our local private sector with cheap loans for business development.

Establish marine and land based fish farms, boost land based agriculture

(1) Marine and land based fish farms should be explored and established where feasible.

(2) Boost land based agriculture by utilizing unproductive land and land in the interior of Rarotonga.

Consult the successful

Why don't we consult the best in the world on innovation. Stop talking to economists. Economics is just an advanced form of astrology-both involve star gazing, numbers and predictions. Why don't we talk to Bill Gates, Warren Buffet or Richard Branson?

Letters to the Editor

George Pitt helps people

Dear Editor,
Last Friday I heard the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather running my good friend George Pitt down on radio. I just can't understand how he can do that on George Pitt's radio station and say George Pitt doesn't do anything for the people.

He doesn't know how my good friend George built up the radio station and CITV to what it is today. When the CIP government under Sir Geoffrey Henry sold off the radio station and TV station in 1996, they were deep in debt. George was supposed to get a debt free TV station but that did not happen. It took George nearly four years to pay off the CIP government debt of \$300,000.

George has allowed his radio station to be used free of charge for radio-thons to raise money for good causes and people in need. All the operating costs are paid by the radio station. When there's a hurricane, the radio station stays on air for 24 hours and as long as needed. The government does not pay for this. All the costs for power and staff time are paid by the radio station.

Maybe Minister Heather helps some people for free but we pay for T&M Heather to do work for us.

On air, you said you were a Christian. My friend Pastor George helped start up the Assembly of God Churches on Rarotonga and was Senior Pastor at the Takuvaine and Arorangi AOG churches. He helped start up the New Hope Church now located in Parekura and headed by Senior Pastor John Tangi. This little church has over the years donated thousands of dollars to the needy here in the Cook Islands and overseas. George also visits the prison and has helped prisoners spiritually and also with work.

Minister Heather, if you are a true Christian, you will know that all Christians must forgive those who trespass against them and to turn the other cheek. Christ said if you do not forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive you. Did you forgive George?

You spent a lot of time on radio running my friend down and you forgot, that one hour on air is supposed to be for the CIP Party.

Minister Heather, it's really a shame how you ran my friend down. What he wrote is what people are talking about but he did not go on radio and run you down. What you both should do is shake hands and make it up.

When my good friend writes about the Prime Minister the PM never goes on air to run him down. I think the PM is a gentleman and has good manners. The PM knows about the rough and tumble of political life and how to take the hard knocks and get up and keep going. You Minister Heather must know that when you chose to go into politics, you would experience some very tough moments and must learn to show the public you have the courage to take the good with the bad.

I believe that one day Minister Heather, you could be Prime Minister but not if you behave the way you did on radio. A real leader is humble, tolerant of others, patient, slow to anger, forgiving and loving.

I am sorry my good friend lost his job because Terry Rangi has said he was the best Chairman BTIB ever had.

As my good friend says he is a writer so look forward to some more news.

George Pitt's good friend.

P.S.-Minister Heather before you run my good friend down, please do your homework first. Do not forget, you are using his radio station. He has a lot of friends that come to him for help and good advice so if you want any help, go and see him. He would welcome that.

Dear Editor
Does MFEM get legal advice on anything and if so from whom because this latest assault on people's pensions by having Internal Affairs deduct the tax would suggest not?

To succeed in extracting tax from old age welfare pensions, as is being done at source, would mean that Internal Affairs, the payer, would have to have been deemed the employer of all the pensioners- a ridiculous and potentially expensive ploy.

S.145 of the Income Tax Act is then invoked to make the deductions as it this section which authorises the employer to do that by instalments.

The trouble with this apparently easy collection method is that the pensions being taxed would have to fulfil the qualification of 'source deduction payment' which they do not.

A source deduction payment is defined as being 'a payment by way of salary or wages, an extra emolument or a withholding payment'. A 'withholding payment' in turn is defined as being 'a payment which is declared by regulations under this Act to be a withholding payment for the purposes of Part IX'.

The pension is none of these things but by adopting the graduated tax scales MFEM is creating a fiction that all pensioners are now in the employ of Internal Affairs and their pension is being wrongly characterised as taxable at source.

That being the case I assume all the other provisions of Part IX kick in and pensioners will be required to fill in RM101 forms (Tax Deduction Certificate) which Internal Affairs will complete at the end of the tax year and lodge with its reconciliation.

On a more delightful and serendipitous note however as all pensioners are now in the employ of Internal Affairs one cannot avoid the conclusion that the provisions of the Employment Relations Act will apply to them and pensioners will be able to look forward to all the leave and other entitlements available to employees pursuant to that legislation although I should not imagine many would qualify for maternity leave but ten days annual leave and being paid for public holidays would at least partly compensate them and I suggest they start taking full advantage of the sick leave provisions..

John M Scott

Te Mato Vai Project will benefit the people

Dear Editor,
Allow me to express my personal view regarding the letter written by James Thompson on Monday 24 February 2014 in the CI News concerning the Infrastructure Cook Islands Minister and the Te Mato Vai Project.

What I see in this letter Mr Editor is plain jealousy, selfishness and personal anger. I ask Mr Thomson to try and leave these aside and look at the positive side of this project which I believe will benefit the people, like you and I know we don't drink poison but your anger made you print this word in your letter.

If my thinking is right, maybe you or someone close to you may have put in a bid for this job which you did not get hence your attempt to stop the whole project.

My understanding for the Te Mato Vai Project is that there is no master plan done yet but consultations have been done and are being looked at. The people's concerns and views have to be addressed first. To those who sign the petition, think hard. Thank you for now.

J.N.

An open letter . . .

To : Telecom New Zealand.
From : Howard Henry, Rarotonga.

“Please : Don’t sell out on us”

Much has been made in recent times about Digicel’s attempt to purchase Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding in “Telecom Cook Islands”. In doing so, Digicel is trying to acquire the majority ownership in one of the Cook Islands most important and strategic assets.

It has also been made apparent that Digicel are also be interested in purchasing the remaining 40% shares in “Telecom Cook Islands” that are currently owned by the Cook Islands Government.

In other words ... it appears that Digicel eventually wants to “buy the lot”.

It has been noted that “Telecom Cook Islands” has been run as a joint venture between Telecom New Zealand (a public company listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange) and the Cook Islands Government since 1991.

At that time the ownership/ shareholding structure was 40% Telecom New Zealand and 60% Cook Islands Government as being the “caretaker owner” on behalf of all the people of the Cook Islands.

But then the ownership structure changed in 1997. At that time Telecom New Zealand purchased an additional 20% shareholding in “Telecom Cook Islands” from the Cook Islands Government. They paid \$3 million dollars for this and so the ownership structure changed to 60% Telecom New Zealand and 40% Cook Islands Government.

And so that is what it is today.

It has been further noted that Digicel made two previous attempts to purchase

Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding in “Telecom Cook Islands”. In both cases, those sale negotiations fell through for different reasons and so no sale and purchase was concluded.

Digicel has now come back a third time. And so they are making a third attempt to purchase Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding in “Telecom Cook Islands”.

If successful, this will mean that Digicel will take the majority ownership and control of the only telecommunications company/network that is established and operating here in the Cook Islands.

I fully agree with the Minister of Finance Mark Brown when he said in December last year that : “We’re quite happy with our minority shareholding in Telecom Cook Islands. I don’t think that it would be good to get back into the business of running a telecommunications company. That is best left to the private sector.”

By this, I take it the Minister means that he and the Cook Islands Government are happy to be a 40% minority shareholder in “Telecom Cook Islands”, with the other 60% being owned by the private sector which in this case is Telecom New Zealand. That majority owner therefore runs and operates this company as a purely commercial venture according to market forces and based upon purely commercial considerations.

The 40% Cook Islands Government portion therefore becomes an “investment” on their part.

Because of this situation, the Cook Islands Government

therefore receives all relevant levies and appropriate taxes generated by “Telecom Cook Islands”. But in addition to that, the Cook Islands Government also receives 40% “of the profits” this “joint venture company” makes each year ... as a return on their “investment”.

Some suggestions indicate that this profit share to the Cook Islands Government in recent times is in excess of \$2 million dollars a year. A great income for Government and the people of the Cook Islands, for being a “sleeping partner”, and having to do “nothing” to earn this money in such a successful enterprise being operated and managed by the “private sector”.

I call this ... “Money for Jam”.

Others call it ... “A cash Cow”.

Looking at this situation from a completely different angle. According to the 2011 Population Census of the Cook Islands, the total population of every man woman and child in the Cook Islands stood at 14,974.

\$2 million dollars a year “cash dividend” from “Telecom Cook Islands”, under the current ownership structure, equates to about a \$1,350 dollar dividend paid to the Cook Islands Government for every man, woman and child in this country.

To each and every one of us here in the Cook Islands, the 60/40 split between Telecom New Zealand and the Cook Islands Government is worth around \$1,350 dollars a year ... indirectly. What an awesome return on “investment”.

Should Digicel buy out Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding in “Telecom Cook Islands”, can they guarantee

a similar payout to “our Government” of at least \$1,350 dollars per person, per year, in the foreseeable future as “our share” of the company profits?

I am not convinced they can.

Other international telecommunications companies are now said to be “sniffing” around looking to put in an alternative bid to purchase Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding.

All this corporate activity has created a lot of uncertainty and concern here in the Cook Islands regarding the services, direction and future operations of our telecommunications facilities.

I, for one, am not comfortable with all of this.

Telecom New Zealand and the Cook Islands Government have worked in good partnership for more than 20 years to build and develop “Telecom Cook Islands” to what it is today.

It is a very successful business. It is now a very profitable business for both partners. It has a proven “track record” of quality performance. It is delivering good service to our people all across the country.

So my humble request to Telecom New Zealand, through this “open letter”, is very simple . . .

“Please : Don’t sell out on us”

Leave everything in terms of “Telecom Cook Islands” ownership and shareholding structure exactly the way it is. As the saying goes : “The devil you know is better than the devil you don’t know”.

“Oh ... how I wish I could sleep more comfortable at nights!”

Howard Henry
Rarotonga

Water pressure critical

The water division reported today that water pressure is critical at northern water intakes and the eastern water intakes are near critical level. Their report is set out below.

With the slight showers the town area experience last night, it did not actually show on our readings this morning except for Tupapa water intake with a 2m increase in

pressure. The Northern side is at CRITICAL LEVEL of 20% and the Eastern side of the island is close to CRITICAL LEVEL. At the moment the Southern side of the island is holding between 40-51%. Avana intake, our biggest water intake, is also very low as it is serving both the Southern Low side and the Turangi sector. Our pressure gauge could not read Takuvaine intake on

Monday and this morning as there was not enough water pressure at the pressure point. Even without a reading, there is still water flowing through the trunk mains and into the town sector but with very low pressure.

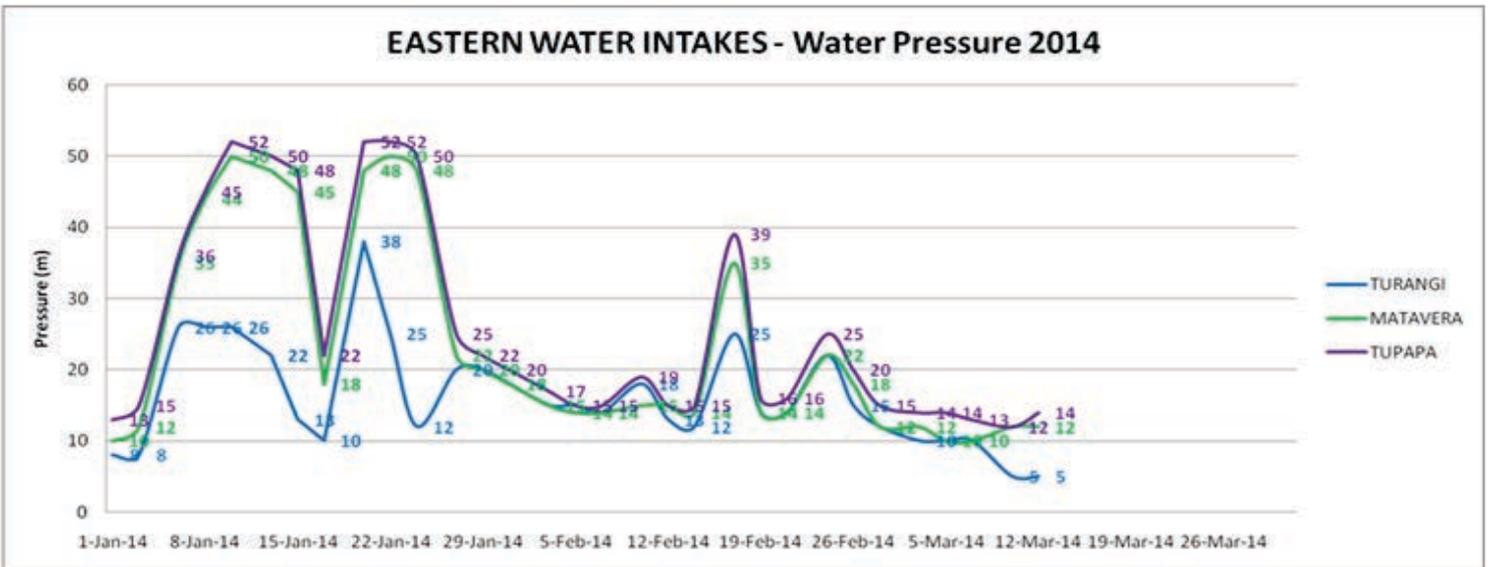
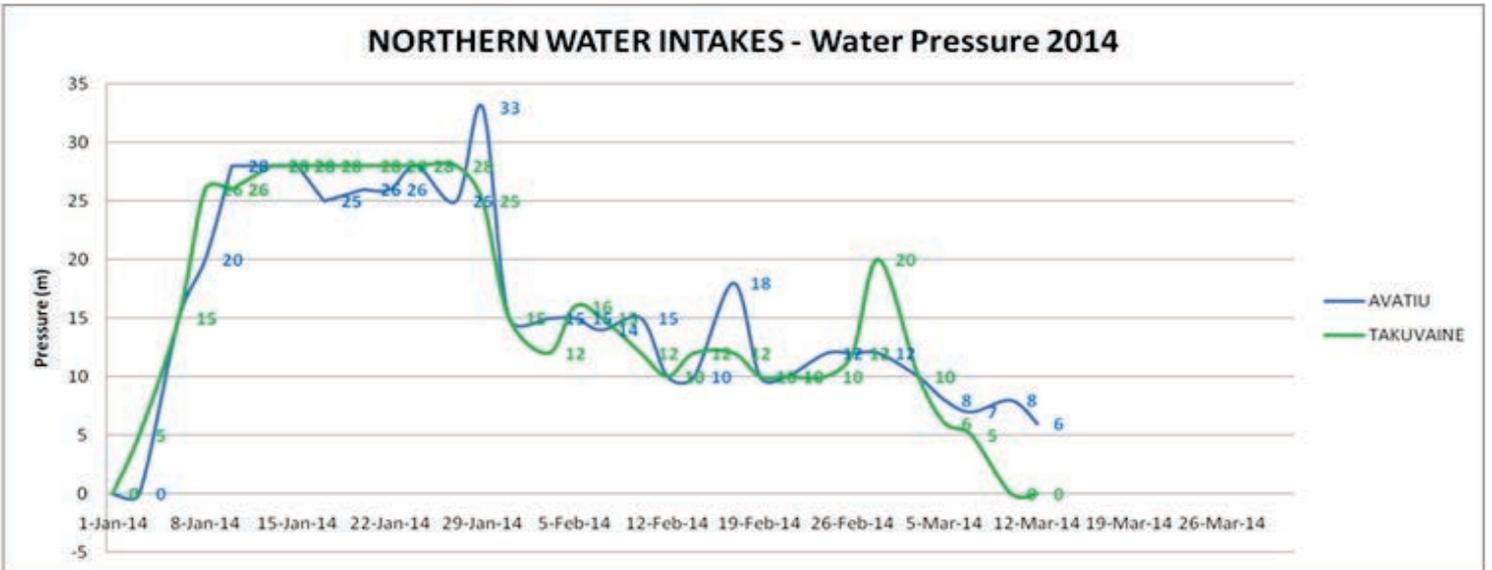
With the current weather situation, hopefully we can get some more rain in the coming days.

At the moment we have four

water trucks assisting with the water carting to keep up with the delivery demand. This has been a great improvement as compared to the two we have always been using. We are looking at other options of drawing water from the streams especially in the southern side of the island.

Below is the water pressure graph for the four sectors our intakes are supplying from January 2014 to this morning.

INTAKE	17-Feb-14	%	19-Feb-14	%	21-Feb-14	%	24-Feb-14	%	26-Feb-14	%	28-Feb-14	%	3-Mar-14	%	5-Mar-14	%	7-Mar-14	%	10-Mar-14	%	12-Mar-14	%
AVATIU	18	60	10	33	10	33	12	40	12	40	12	40	10	33	8	27	7	23	8	27	6	20
TAKUVAINE	12	40	10	33	10	33	10	33	12	40	20	67	10	33	6	20	5	17	0	0	0	0
TURANGI	25	83	14	47	14	47	22	73	15	50	12	40	10	33	10	33	10	33	5	17	5	17
MATAVERA	35	70	14	28	14	28	22	44	18	36	12	24	12	24	10	20	10	20	12	24	12	24
TUPAPA	39	71	16	29	16	29	25	45	20	36	15	27	14	25	14	25	13	24	12	22	14	25
GOLDIE	39	71	16	29	16	29	25	45	20	36	15	27	14	25	14	25	13	24	12	22	14	25
AVANA	40	57	30	43	30	43	52	74	38	54	32	46	25	36	22	31	20	29	20	29	18	26
TOTOKOITU	35	70	35	70	35	70	35	70	38	76	38	76	26	52	25	50	22	44	22	44	20	40
TAIPARA	35	78	28	62	28	62	32	71	32	71	35	78	22	49	22	49	20	44	18	40	18	40
PAPUA	35	78	30	67	30	67	35	78	35	78	35	78	25	56	25	56	22	49	22	49	20	44
NGATOE	26	74	26	74	26	74	30	86	28	80	28	80	20	57	20	57	18	51	18	51	18	51
RUTAKI	26	74	26	74	26	74	30	86	28	80	28	80	20	57	20	57	18	51	18	51	18	51



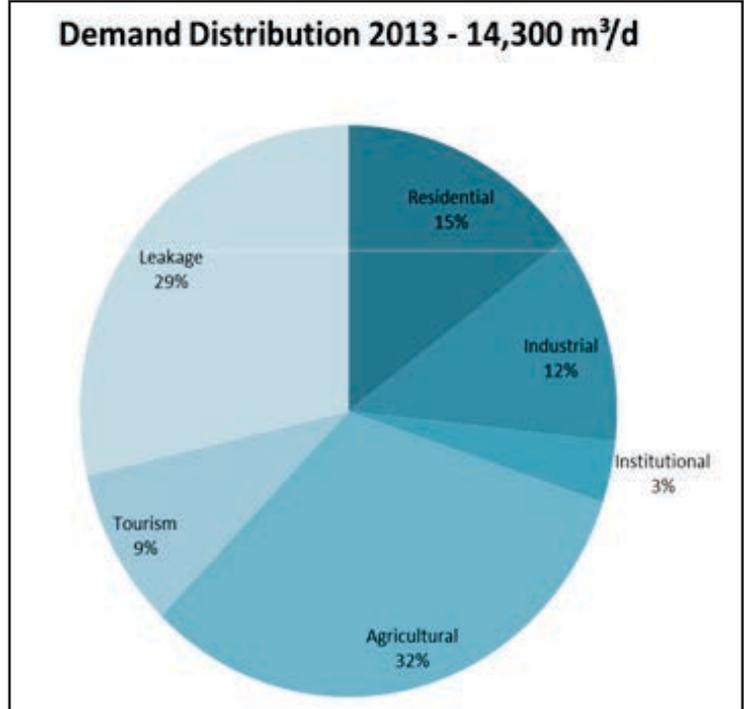
Water Leakage Figures Rarotonga

Submitted by James Thomson of the Te Mato Vai Petition Committee

1. Draft Plan Pg 3 Water loss from the system, estimated at anywhere between 10 – 70 % losses.

3. Water Supply Master Plan. High leakage rates (Areas not upgraded 40% - 70%)

Must test to confirm? How? Gator Cam or Acoustic Microphones (leak detection kit).



Fix repairs and audit additional concerns, cleaning, air valves. Obtain accurate data thence take appropriate action. If repairs are less than 3% wouldn't believe total replacement is required? Check watercare.co.nz Asset Management Plan to confirm life expectancy over 100 years.

If it does need replacing, which would indicate repairs are at least 50% or more thence use either relining or Directional Drilling to replace pipes.

Roger Harrington, SBW's Managing Director, said the system can potentially be used for pipes of more than a metre in diameter. (Imagine if you could put in all services)

"We know how frustrating it is for drivers to be stuck in traffic jams when approaching roadworks. We use this method, wherever possible, to cut down the space we take up in the street with an aim to minimising travel problems for our customers and visitors to the area. Decreasing waiting time for vehicles is also good for the environment and reduces emissions from engine exhausts." he said.

The Benefits; 1. Safe And Durable

2. Cost Effective - Pipe lining is as much as 50 percent less expensive than traditional pipe replacement costs such as repiping. Lining is a non-invasive process, so there is no destruction



to buildings, hardscape or landscape. Reconstruction costs for repiping are as much as 60 percent of direct pipe repair costs and epoxy lining eliminates the need for reconstruction.

3. Minimal Downtime - The epoxy lining process takes a fraction of the time of traditional recipe methods.

For example, a repiping job that would normally take a full 6 to 8 weeks can take as little as two weekends (or 4 days) for Nu Flow to complete.

4. Minimal Disruption and No Occupant Displacement - Epoxy Lining as an Eco-Trend Lining is an eco-friendly solution that creates no waste for landfills or for

recycling and generates no carbon emissions during manufacturing. Epoxy lining have replaced temporary, outdated pipe replacement methods as an eco-friendly trend that efficiently and economically controls pollution of our water sources and helps conserve valuable water supplies.

\$390,000 surplus funds from Cyclone Pat recovery project likely to be returned to NZ

By Charles Pitt

Government may have lost an opportunity to help or to provide financial assistance to the owners of 25 or so homes on Aitutaki whose homes had been damaged during cyclone Pat and which still need repairs.

Following the official end to the Cyclone Pat Recovery project, it was announced that some \$390,000 in NZ government funds remained unused. It is now likely that these unused funds will be returned to NZ.

This comes as a disappointment to Eric Ponia who has been acting for some 25 homeowners, including himself, to have government use this money to help with repairs. According to Eric many of these homeowners were on the original lists for repair work but their names were removed for no clear reason. Government's failure to address the homeowner's concerns has given rise to much bitterness and disappointment and at times, anger,

Eric himself has made several approaches to government but so far to no avail.

If our government does not seek NZ government approval to utilize this unspent money to affect repairs it is likely the NZ government will recall these funds.

That would be a major disappointment and it is concerning that the Herald understands that Aid Management within MFEM, known as DCD these days, is not supporting Ponia and the other residents.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

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PRINTER INK Cartridges

The most common printer-related complaints we get from readers bemoan the high cost of ink or toner. Yes, ink can be costly - particularly for people who print in high volume - but there are ways to reduce your printing costs over time.



Here we offer eight money-saving printing

tips, most of them tried and true, but some with downsides or up-front costs that you should weigh carefully when implementing them. It's also good to have a general idea of how much you print every month or even every year (either personally or



for your business), as usage plays into what tips will work for your particular situation

Shop for a printer with a low cost per page. Many printers have a low sticker price, but when you factor in ink costs, you



may be paying more for them in the long run. Ink or toner costs tend to be inversely proportional to a printer's price; high-end laser printers often have a very low cost per page, while budget inkjets frequently have high ink costs. But even for printers within a given price range, there may be

considerable variation in running costs.

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BILLS – for next sitting of Parliament

From Clerk of the House John Tangi Tuesday 11 February 2014

1. Trustee Companies Bill (2013-14) - No. 18 still on the Order Paper
 2. Cook Islands Loan Repayment Fund Bill (2013-14) - No. 19 – 1 still on the O/Paper
 3. Development Investment Amendment Bill - No. 1 – 1
 4. Public Service Amendment Bill - No. 2 – 1
 5. Arbitration Amendment Bill - No. 3 – 1
 6. Control of Prices Amendment Bill - No. 4 – 1
 7. Income Tax Amendment Bill - No. 5 – 1
 8. Value Added Tax Amendment Bill - No. 6 – 1
- Sitting date to be confirmed.

In Cricket news...

The Stats Don't Lie

No surprise that in form batter Jeff Viniconbe has a firm grip on the Domestic League's top run scorers list with a whopping 225 runs after two innings. Second spot belongs to Pukapuka's youngster Ngametua Tariau with 77 runs at a strike at 286. 3rd and 4th spots are occupied by World XI players Glenn Miller (64) and Cameron Thorpe (48) and Aitutaki's Morgan Upu locks in 5th spot with 48 runs. Punanga Kaveao beats out 32 male batters to take 12th spot and the highest of the females.

Aitutaki's Nga Taiti tops the tournaments leading wicket takers list with 9 scalps. Talented left armer Denne Bourke (6 wickets) is in 2nd spot while another talented left armer Shane Munokoa (5 wickets) is close behind in 3rd. Kieran Thorp is in 4th spot while Pukapuka's king of swing Wayken Punga makes an entry at number 5 on the table (4 wickets).

Aitutaki dominates the fielding statistics with no less than 3 Araura players featuring in the top 5. Number one spot is jointly held by Nga Taiti and Shane Munokoa with 3 catches each. The tournaments wicket keepers occupy the remaining three spots; Glenn Miller in 3rd, Aitutaki's Tairi Paulo in 4th and World's part time keeper Corey Fisher in 3rd. Women's players Daena Kataina and Benedicta Matapo hold down 12th and 13th spots respectively.

D-League's Most Valuable Player honours belongs to Jeff Viniconbe with 59.44 MVP points, 18 clear of second placed Nga Taiti. Denee Bourke is in third (33.05) while Pukapukan youngsters Ngametua Tariau (25.56) and Takatua Puiki (24.96) sit in 4th and 5th spot respectively.

This Saturday Pukapuka take on the Cook Islands women at 11am followed by Rarotonga against the World XI at 3pm, both matches are scheduled at the Turangi Cricket Oval.

Points: 1st Place The World XI (8 Points, 2 wins from 2 matches, NRR +2.425), 2nd Place Rarotonga (4 Points, 1 win from 1, NRR +11.600), 3rd Place Pukapuka (4 Points, 1 win from 2, NRR +1.113), 4th Place Aitutaki (4 Points, 1 win from 3, NRR +0.416) and 5th Place Cook Islands women (0 points, 0 wins from 2, NRR -13.140).

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Fantasy Odds – League Cook Islands

Team	Date	Date
	March 10th	
Eels	\$5	
Bulldogs	\$9	
Panthers	\$11	
Sea Eagles	\$25	
Bears	\$30	
Warriors	\$30	
Sharks	\$40	

The Eels are early favourites to WIN the Rugby league grand final in May and reverse the heart ache they felt last year against the Panthers. The Panthers slip in order of favouritism due to the stripping of ALL their points last week and a loss to the Bears over the weekend doesn't help. The Bulldogs have risen as a result of a hard fought out win against the Sea Eagles with Ricky Cowan's Sea Eagles the BEST priced team to WIN with still 7 games to go. Diehard Shark and Warriors fans would be attracted to the lucrative odds on offer but anyone else would see it for what it is – A FANTASY ODDS option.

Fantasy Odds change weekly so follow your clubs FANTASY fortunes as they march to the FINALS

Game 7 Who they picked

Matutu
Eels, Panthers, Bears

Mr "X"
Eels, Sea Eagles, Warriors

Bula Vinaka
Eels, Panthers, Bears

Villima
Eels, Sea Eagles, Bears

Green Grocer
Eels, Panthers, Bears

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

A coaches LIFE SPAN is only as good as its team's last performance.

IS IT TRUE

Two clubs are advertising for NEW coaches in 2015 – checkout the loser in last weeks games for details

IS IT TRUE

The Sharks 1st WIN caused Negative Social Impact on their Island - Beer Shortages, Increase in NO SHOWS at Aitutaki airport, Absenteeism from Work, Police Resources Stretched (they need a 2nd officer – other one called in sick after the game)

IS IT TRUE

Ghost of Peter Plummlly Walker wants to know where is the CROSS DRESSING FITNESS CLUB and can he join

Simple Simon says.... Doggies Make Sea Eagles Tapa

The massive Bulldogs forward pack of Ozwell Tunupopo, Salafi Tovio, Devon Mitchell and Lloyd Matapo continually pounded the Sea Eagles into tapa cloth at Muri on Saturday. Huge hits from Bulldogs half back Roman Hifo reduced the sneaky dummy half runs of Sea Eagles Eddie Nicholas and Matthew Pierre. Salafi Tovio uncompromising runs and big tackles ensured the tapa cloth worn by the Sea Eagles got a even beating and man handled often. Fijian import, Tevita Misama, playing at fullback, was amongst the best on the day, and between him and fellow countryman, centre, Kaliova Malibu they were able to put together several telling moves that lead to tries.

Bulldog standoff Teariki Tou was sacked from the kicking duties early on after missing a sitter directly in front. He scored a soccer goal instead of a conversion so handed the reigns over to Mana Ngaau who was successful with more kicks than he missed. The Sea Eagles plight got worst as injuries throughout the game took its toll. At one stage the field resembled a war zone with bodies littered all over it. From cramps to strains to blood stained bodies both teams were desperate for a good showing. The young and youthful Gerald Piho at fullback for the Muri side will learn a lot from the day. Better ball protect and "Run around the heavier player rather than trying to go thru" will work better for him while he is still light and tender. Give him a year or two (plus 10-15kg more) Gerald Piho has STAR written on his resume. **So says "Not So Skinny Simon."**

Who Played Well

Bulldogs

Roman Hifo, Lloyd Matapo, Salafi Tovio, Tevita Misama

Sea Eagles

Jerry Labaibure, Oki Naea, Usa Sivo, Elaisa Ravula

Half Time - Sea Eagles 12 Bulldogs 4

Final Score Bulldogs 20 Sea Eagles 18

Scores Last Week Game 6

Sharks 40 vs Warriors 10

Bears 29 vs Panthers 12

Sea Eagles 18 vs Bulldogs 20

BYE – Eels

Draw Wk 5 Fri March 14

Eels vs Sharks

Avatiu Field 5pm

Sat 15th March 2014

Panther's vs Sea Eagles

Victoria Park, 4pm

Bears v Warriors

Raemaru Park, 4pm

BYE - Bulldogs

Aitutaki Sharks vs Takuvaive Warriors

The Punakiore Park in Arutanga, Aitutaki battle last Friday 7th March 2014 between two evenly matched sides (Aitutaki Sharks vs Takuvaive Warriors) was very entertaining. Both sides had the potential to dominate the game; however, the Sharks were just a bit more exertive when gaps are created, through basic domination of possession. Both teams were great off the mark from the outset, and it kind of brought out an intriguing anticipation for a classic, top showcase game of rugby league.

The weather was warm, no wind advantage to either team, and with the reef as the back-drop to their backs, the Sharks were the first to receive possession from kick-off, and attacking inland. I give credit to both teams, they played a simple standard of unstructured brand of football in attack, but defensively, both teams looked vulnerable at times. Props from both teams were made to look good, their carries were assisted by slow off the mark defense, thus creating easy yardage on offer.

In the 4th Minute of the game, and from the Sharks' first taste of possession, they were more organized, quick play-the-ball and were rewarded with a penalty 10 meters in front of the goal post. Their stand-off David Wichman made no mistake of it, and chalked up the Sharks 2, and Warriors 0. Five minutes later, through quick the play-the-balls, the Sharks found themselves on attack again, Messine was at his best, mastering the defense line at will, and finally putting their right winger Pi David to score in the corner, Wichman also adding the conversion to get the Sharks 8 leading the Warriors 0. From the next kick-off, the Sharks were again hot on attack, and the opportunity to regain possession from a kick into the in goal by the Stand-off Wichman saw a try went begging.

In the 14th minute mark, through a lot of inter-passing, Half-back Messine Manapori found his path under the goal post for an easy try. Wichman again took an easy conversion

and the Sharks went further ahead by 14 points to Warriors 0. Personally, I would encourage more purposive run-off players creating indecisive questions to the defending side, up and into the line draw play, creating opportunities. It was quite fair to say that the forward play in this game, were one dimensional, straight up, and very easy to read from a defensive point of view. Ahead by 14:0, the Sharks were a bit complacent in their defence, and on the 23rd minute mark of the game, the Warriors took their chance and Daniel Ahau scored an easy try from a play-the-ball situation. Ahau missed the conversion attempt to leave the Warriors trailing the Sharks by 14:4. The Warriors started to lift their game and had the Sharks pinned in their red zone, a clearing defensive chip kick by NO. 4 gifted the Warriors and opportunist try to More Vati under the post, and with a Ahau adding the conversion, the score was narrowed down to Sharks 14 and the Warrior 10.

The second half was great, at the 6 minute mark in the second half, a Sharks' player got tackled a meter from the try line, but managed to break the tackle before coming into contact with the ground, and with tackle incomplete, he reached forward and scored a legitimate try; the referee judged a double movement is executed, and thus penalizing the player accordingly. The dynamics of the game took a twist for the rest of the second half, Sharks' passes were more certain, and it was evident that their ball control were better, and Jacque Henry scored his first for the day, with Wichman adding the conversion, Sharks 20 and the Warriors 10. The Sharks forwards were in positive mode and were grinding the tiring Warriors pack at will, and the Mountain man Mau George was over to score a deserved effort try, Wichman adding the conversion; Sharks 26 and Warriors 10. A penalty to the Sharks in front of the upright gifted Wichman 2 points to extend their lead; Sharks 28, Warriors 10. The Sharks backs, through their twinkle stepper backs, Messine and Alex were

very instrumental; Messine's control of the backs was great, allowing Pi David to score his double for the day. Sharks 32, Warriors 10. Jacque Henry was on the spot again to score his double to extend their lead to; Sharks 36, Warriors 10. But I feel, their positional play offensively was too shallow, not really allowing a full thrust of speed and power with pace. If they can distribute responsibilities, sharing the work-load, that will give them full momentum every time instinct scoring opportunities appears. Alex at full-back was a hand full, if utilized better, he is very composed, quick and safe as the last line of defense. His kick returns is okay, but can be improved by hitting the defense line at pace.

You must be ruthless with or without possession, when in possession, you must chess strategize to score trys, you must gauge as to where you are on the field, and attack accordingly, if you have the number, you will get there, and if you have the speed, you will fly there, but the key is, you must manipulate where you want the defense line to move to, or, where your penetration point has to open up at? Never lose control of your mental strength during a

gain; otherwise it will become a habit.

Their left-Centre (No.4) Ali Ma'ao was very dangerous with ball in hand, and he scored a great try in the left hand corner to bring the final score of the game to 40 points to 10.

Both teams have great potential to be very competitive, straight up, neither team in my view is physically fit enough to endure a 90 minutes full throttle blast. That shows a lack of commitment from the players to condition themselves in their own time, rather than using the team time to get them fit. I feel sorry for the people who are sacrificing their family times, to cater for the team, so that they could turn out and represent the Aitutaki community. Aitutaki teams in the past are known to be very fierce and aggressive monsters in a game, very arrogant and full of confidence. They believe in their will power to dominate their opponent, and quite often, they were always achieving. E rai to tatou au puku maunga, takaia, kia ei te kuramea ki to rima.

The Eels are waiting for the Sharks to come to the Swamp this coming Friday, they are a different kettle of fish, compared to the Warriors. Bring it on, why don't you? Happy League everyone!!

Opinion

With one game remaining in the first round of the CI Rugby League 2014 season, can we say that the supporters are getting much value for their dollar?

Not that local supporters have to pay much to watch a game (even less when they sit outside the park and watch through the fence).

One would have hoped that coming off the back of a Rugby League World Cup, there would be lots of skill and enthusiasm shown by local players who want to make the next World Cup campaign. Have we seen any evidence of this – not at all. In fact, one could argue that standards have steadily declined over the last couple of seasons. Imagine if we didn't have the influence of the Imported Overseas players. Without the imports on the field, many of the games would end up being a slug fest between aging forwards and young smart-mouthed halves wanting to make a name for themselves.

Are our coaches teaching skills to our players – or are they just telling them how to run into a brick wall? Are our coaches spending time to strategize a game plan or is the game plan simply run at that wall?

Let's pray that we see some well thought out attacking and defensive plays in the second part of the season.

Green Grocer

Bowls Cook Islands Ambassadors, farewelled by the Minister Mark Brown

By Ben Mose, BCI Media Watch

Remember bowlers, wherever you go around the world representing your country, your sports club, your sporting code and the people of this country, always put Christ before you". That was the message conveyed by the Patron of Bowls Cook Islands, Sir Fredrick KBE during the farewell luncheon last Sat 8th, 2014, at the Rarotonga Bowling Club.

In the comfort of the Government VIP at the Rarotonga Airport yesterday, Minister Mark Brown farewell the team after some encouraging words from the Patron, Sir Fredrick, CISNOC President, Hugh Graham and BCI President Mr George Paniani. The Sport Minister wished the team well, and is looking forward to receiving them back in 2 weeks.

Tour Manager, Mr Papatua



BCI, Tiger Bowls Ambassador after Church services last Sunday

Papatua and the rest of the athletes Mr Philip Tangi, Vaine Henry, Tere Daniels and 20 year old Lawrence Paniani. Women

Mata Vaile, Tereapii Ulrich, Irene Tupuna and Tonina Browne departed by Air NZ. The good news is the battle of the Pacific Big Boys of Lawn Bowls both ranked 1 and 2, Fiji and the Cook

Islands will be interesting. They are in the same pool with China and Hong Kong. After playing the Hong Kong Open, both Fiji and the Cook Islands will head for China for the Open.

Records Tumble in Crickets Domestic League

It has been a bonanza of excitement this Domestic League, records have been smashed, diving catches taken, bats broken and balls in the lagoon. Here is a quick look at the statistics after just two weeks of Domestic League action.

A total of 1440 runs have been scored and 68 wickets taken. 113 sixes and 129 fours have been hit with 83% percent of the tournament runs coming by way of boundaries.

The World XI has scored the most boundary fours (44) and the most boundary sixes (45). Denne Bourke has the best bowling figures of any player in an innings when he collected 4 wickets for 37 runs against Aitutaki.

Four balls have been lost, 1 lodged in a coconut tree and two balls finding their final resting place in the Turangi lagoon.

Jeff Viniconbe (World XI) holds the most Domestic League batting records (3), Viniconbe is the leading tournament run scorer with a total of 222 runs, has hit the most boundary sixes by a player in an innings

(20 against Pukapuka) and has the highest individual total of a batter (159 not out against Pukapuka).

There has been 7 dogs and 13 roosters chased from the field. Arthur Emile and Nauma Atiau are the tournament's most capped umpires. There has been 0 player reprimands.

32 catches have been swallowed and 4 spilled. Aitutaki's Nga Taiti and Shane Munokoia have the safest pairs of hands of the tournament leading the Domestic League tally with 3 catches each.

Aitutaki's Nga Taiti also holds the title as the tournaments leading wicket taker with 9 scalps.

The World XI has hit the most boundary fours and sixes by a team in an innings; 28 fours against Aitutaki and 24 sixes against Pukapuka.

It has been an action packed two weeks, don't miss this Saturdays action as Pukapuka take on the Cook Islands women at 11am and Rarotonga take on the World XI at 3pm, both matches are scheduled at the Turangi Cricket Oval.

On Top Of The World

The World XI picked up their second consecutive win of the Domestic League on Saturday with a 41 run victory over Pukapuka. Jeff Viniconbe has quickly proven to be the World's most valuable player. The classy right hander pulled the World side out of a 3 for 34 hole in the weekend with an unbeaten 159, coming from just 70 balls at a strike rate of 227 which included seven boundary 4's and twenty boundary 6's. The innings puts Viniconbe squarely at the top of the Domestic League run scorers list and the only player to have broken the 200 runs mark thus far. India's Akshay Singh provided the cement to the Worlds innings as he notched up 30 runs while supporting Viniconbe on his way to the record breaking Domestic League score.

Pukapukan's Terry William (72 runs), Ngametua Tariau (33) and Pokelea Yeutu (30 not out) provided fight for the Wale side who ended their run chase on 209 for 7, 41 runs shy of the victory.

In the morning match the Cook Islands womens team continued their great progress by batting for 19.2 over's to improve on their total against Aitutaki the week before. Punanga Kaveao and June George top scored on their way to 68. Despite picking up the wicket of Paea Tuati in the second over Rarotonga's Apii Mamanu (25 not out) and Mark Larsen (20 not out) played superbly to steer the Rarotonga team home to their first 4 points of the Domestic League. Paea Tuati and Mark Larsen spinning their way to three wickets a piece.

Pukapuka take on the Cook Islands women at 11am this Saturday while Rarotonga have the World XI at 3pm, both matches are scheduled at the Turangi Cricket Oval.

Points: 1st Place The World XI (8 Points, 2 wins from 2 matches, NRR +2.425), 2nd Place Rarotonga (4 Points, 1 win from 1, NRR +11.600), 3rd Place Pukapuka (4 Points, 1 win from 2, NRR +1.113), 4th Place Aitutaki (4 Points, 1 win from 3, NRR +0.416) and 5th Place Cook Islands women (0 points, 0 wins from 2, NRR -13.140).

How to stay away from trouble

part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I talked about how many of our young people are being lured into things that will bring harm to them. Therefore this article is to encourage our young people, including adults on HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE. It is also important for us to be reminded of what the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 10v.10 that the mission of the devil or Satan is “..to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly.” Be encouraged also what Isaiah 59v.19 says that.” When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” The main scripture reading for this article is Psalm 1v.1-3 (GN) which reads “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God, instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.” From these three verses, I want to show you three important lessons on How To Stay Away From Trouble!

Lesson 1. SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE WORLD v.1 reads “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God.” The apostle Paul said in

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

Romans 12v.2 “..do not be conformed to this world.” I John 2v.15 and 17(b) “If anyone loves the world and the things of it, the love of the Father is not in him..” Anyone who continues to remain in the world, and does what is not right in the sight of God, is committing a sin before God. Romans 6v.23 reads “..the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8v.31 said “If God is for us who can be against us.”

Lesson 2. SATURATE YOURSELVES WITH THE WORD OF GOD v.2 reads “..they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night.” The question is, ‘Why is it important for us to be saturated with God’s words?’ The answer is to avoid us from stumbling into the things of the world. If you walk in darkness, you will trip over and hurt yourself. Psalm 119v.105 reads “..the Word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.” If people are not saturating themselves with the Word of God, then they are filling themselves with the things of the world! This is the cause of family problems and arguments. Proverbs 30v.5 reads “..He is like a shield for all who seek His protection.” In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve doubted the Word of God.. Jesus said in John 8v.31-32 “..if you obey My teaching, you are really My



disciples, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Lesson 3. SITUATE YOURSELF BY THE WATER. v.3 reads “They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.” Jesus said in John 7v.38 that “He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”. In this time of increasing problems (in the Cook Islands), our

people need the fruit of the Holy Spirit to flow from within us to help them, and most importantly to direct them to Jesus Christ! Jesus said in John 16v.7 that “He will sent the Holy Spirit to help us, and the Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth.” Remember we must 1) SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD. 2) SATURATE OURSELVES WITH THE WORD OF GOD. 3) SITUATE OURSELVES BY THE WATER Who is the Holy Spirit. May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te aroa.

That selfie though

By Norma Ngatamariki

On those rare occasions when I get to log on to my Facebook page, the first thing I see is close-up picture of someone's face. Nowadays, those kind of photos are called "selfies". It's the in-thing. I wouldn't say that it's a new trend, because it's been around for quite some time, but recently it's becoming more and more popular to take "intimate" photos of yourself. On Facebook, a selfie can make or break you; the way you look on your Display Pic (DP) and how others rate it can boost your ego or shoot it down. I guess it all depends on what filter you use lol.

I'll admit, I like taking photos of myself as well. The original photo of me may not be pretty, but after I've made some adjustments (You know, you have to get the right angle, the right filter and the position has to be

perfect), I look like a Raro-class model (which isn't saying much). Out of the hundred selfies that I take, I'll probably choose only five of them (six if I'm feeling really gorgeous, which isn't often lol) Now, for the people who are naturally photogenic, they don't know the STRUGGLE of getting the perfect picture. Consider yourselves lucky.

To assist you in getting that perfect selfie, there are tonnes of camera apps available online, such as the Google Play store (Samsung) or the App store (Apple). Instagram, Aviary, FxCamera and RetroCamera just to name a few. My personal favourite is this app called Retrica because no matter what angle I take a selfie from, it always turns out nice. Unfortunately, I don't have it on my phone (stupid Google Play store said it wasn't available for Samsung) but it's on my cousin's

phone, so I just blow up his Camera Roll with Norma selfies (knowing that he'll delete them afterwards).

Taking a selfie is so popular, that a song was written about it. It's called 'Selfie' and it's sung by The Chainsmokers. I found myself listening to that song and saying to myself, that is totally true. People, females in particular, are really touchy when it comes to other's opinions about their selfies. If they don't get a certain amount of likes in a certain amount of time, they go all OMG-nobody-liked-my-selfie. It's a really funny reaction. If a girl posts a selfie of her topless, then of course she's gonna get a 100 likes (majority of them will be boys) but a lot of negative comments as well. It really depends on how you would like others to see you: as an object or as a person.

Even as I was writing this, I



was checking out my selfies on Justin's phone. Sorting out which ones were ugly (and deleting them, of course) and checking out his new camera apps (my cousin is always updated, so I don't worry). But yeah, the evolution of selfies is definitely taking over.

Imanuela Akatemia buffet fundraiser

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.

Last week Friday, Imanuela Akatemia had held their buffet dinner and show banquet to raise funds for the small school. The evening was set to start at 6pm sharp, Friday evening, with a hundred or so guests attending the event. I had unfortunately read the ticket wrong, so instead of showing up at six, my date and I were fashionably late to the occasion. I was told by my mum, who just happens to be on the school's fundraising committee, that the fundraiser had been in the making for about a month now, and they were all happy to finally reap the rewards of their hard labour. All school students, teachers and parents, had been working vigorously for the past month, selling tickets and preparing

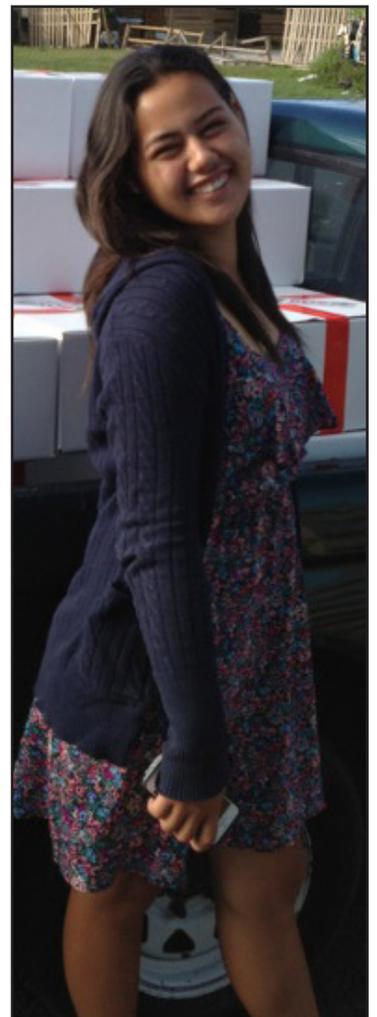
everything for the night. With the students even going as far as creating really nifty water bottles, using recycled wine bottles and painting and wrapping them with bits of craft paper and tapa cloths to make them look fantastic!

Having finally arrived at the event, I headed straight for the food. Two tables lined up on the sides of the marquees with a vast variety of foods to choose from. There was pork, chicken and ham on one end, then an assortment of different salads at the other. And not to mention the yummy dessert. Chocolate cake, banana cake, and an ice cream cake even, all lined up for me to dig right into. With my plate piled high and bowls filled full, I quickly found an empty table amongst the crowd, sat down and devoured my meal. As the beautiful Tara Kauvai sang softly and soulfully in the background. While on and off, senior students of the school would come up to do little items. Such as the beautiful Miss Christina Turepu and Aloma Moore. To me, their dances were mesmerizing, with their hips swaying rhythmically

to the songs that played, it made me feel a bit envious, thinking to myself, man can those girls dance.

As the night came to a close, people slowly began to make their way to their cars, myself along with my partner and mum, had stayed behind to finish off our meals, while everyone around us began to pack up. Tables were piled, chairs stacked, and table clothes scrunched up. And me, well I did what most people would do in that situation, I left the work and went to scoop me some more food to take home ha-ha. But then I went back to help out.

Throughout the night, there were lots of laughs shared by speakers, guests and the humorous M.C. I am told that although they didn't quite reach their target, the night was still a raging success and all up the school was able to raise a total of nine thousand dollars! So a big Meitaki maata to all those had chipped in and were able to lend a helping hand. You are all, awesome. Praise be to God!



Cookie at Pasifika festival writes it was overwhelming to see politicians from around New Zealand attending Pasifika festival 2013. This shows how much they care for our Pacific islanders and to stay connected with their community especially at the Cook Islands village. We don't see our own politicians on a regular basis attending any public events for moral support. Take NZ Prime Minister John Key, people were all over him asking for a photo shoot and he had the time for that also. Our own Prime Minister when he is at the Saturday Punanganui market, no one actually wants to greet him or ask for a photo shoot! And another thing, our PM didn't even take the chance to have a quick chat with those vendors that attended Pasifika from here.



Oh dear chooks! Reports from the Admiral that last week, spotted beneath his vessel were a huge number of sharks, about 70, moving slowly in a circle right under the boat about 30m below! Just lucky the tourists on board were unaware of the finned ones under their feet! Warm seas are attributed to this phenomena so be careful out there folks!



Things aren't too good in the British Empire of Mangaia for the Demo members who had received government supplied water tanks. Angry CIP members forced the Island sheriffs to remove them and give them to CIP households. Just reinforces the possible convert's choice not to vote for the CIP and when the government changes the removed water tanks will



be reprocessed.



The Red Rooster is crowing about the Murienua by election results being contested in the High Court. Not satisfied with the people's choice Big Red predicts James Beer will come out as the confirmed winner with an increased majority. The silly CIP defeatists won't be happy with the results so they can squander their raffle money on taking their appeal to the Privy Council in England. Don't forget this is the lot who wasted over \$30,000 of public money to get out of possible criminal charges.



Mark Brown's muck up with the local pensions being taxed forced the Internal Affairs to publish nonsensical information totally irrelevant to the disaster Government had created for themselves, talk about amateur spin doctoring at its clumsiest. On the list published six people over sixty are earning in excess of \$80,000 and collecting the pension. It seems for some enough is not enough.

The Te Mato Vai project costs are growing by the day, between two off shore companies KEW the project

managers and ACON the authors of the TMV disaster plan they are being paid \$11 million.



The new ebitor at the daily dribble has had to advertise for advertisers. Are things that bad the dribble they can't fill the space with meaningful news in Maori they have to advertise themselves? Notice in their own ad their paper was being read by a papa'a.



Speaking about Super Brown, he had to fly to Atiu to attend to business and address a confused gathering that had been told he was in the lock up for selling drugs. Well there is some truth in smokes being a drug, but being locked up? The local Police Officer attended the meeting at the instructions of Headquarters in Rarotonga to answer questions from the gathering of people. None of the rumours in circulation on Atiu could re verified by the Policeman who stated the facts as received from Rarotonga and the people lived happily ever after till the next false report. The Police were also instructed from Rarotonga that Brown was to

report at 5pm on Friday as part of his bail conditions which meant their early closure at 3.00pm on Fridays to attend the tumunu had to be changed. When is Rarotonga going to respect important outer islands protocols and traditions?

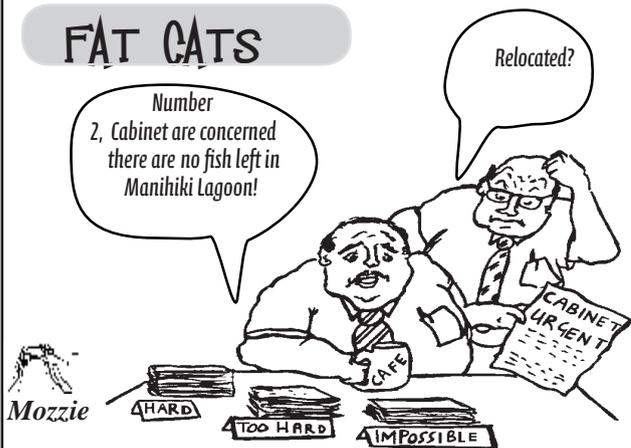


More Super Brown talk, ever since the daily dribble made the stupid mistake of headlining Mr Brown on the front page and having the cartoon about him, the daily dribble has been refused entry. Normally selling over 100 copies a day they have had to find alternative points of sale. Word is other stores are considering doing the same in support of one of their own, don't say you weren't warned ebitor. It will be called the ban daily dribble day and it won't be a Sunday. By the way ebitor when are you going to publish all those less than 300 word positive letters about George Pitt?



Word in the chook run is our local constabulary are aware of other shops selling questionable cigarettes but aren't interested. One senior copper involved in the raid at the 24 hour shop seems to have memory recall issues because when he had an alcohol related road accident one night and landed in the hedge injured outside a popular Pue eatery it was Mr Brown who was first on the scene and administered first aid. Then again how could he remember, he was drunk. Let's hope he doesn't have memory failure when he has to give evidence against the man who may have saved his life.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



TE REO MAORI KŪKI AIRANI



Tātā'ia e Ruteru Taripo

Kia Orāna kōtou kātoatoa i tēia mata'iti ōu, rua tauatini mā ta'i-ngauru mā toru (2013). Te irinaki nei au ē, e kua mataora tikāi ta kōtou Kirītimiti ē te maara nei rāi iā tātou te akakoroanga tikāi ō tēia rā. E pērā katoa, i roto i te tuātau ōrotē, tē pāpū nei ē, kua mataora rāi te reira na roto i te au tū angaanga tāokotai, raverave ma te inangaro tikāi, ki te pae i tā tātou au tamariki, tō tātou ngā metua, akaperepere, vouvou, kōpū-tangata, taeake ē pērā katoa tā tātou au manu i te ngutuare.

Nō reira, e mea tau rāi kia rauka iā tātou kātoatoa i te akameitaki atu i tō tātou Metua Tapu i te rangi teitei no tei tiaki mai, pāruru mai ē kua arataki mai rāi aia iā tātou na roto i te mataiti 2012, ē kua akatae mai iā tātou ki roto i tēia mataiti 2013.

Tei ā tātou rāi oki i te ākono i tō tātou au oraanga, tō tātou enua, tō tātou ao-nātura ē te katoaanga e koropini nei iā tātou ē tā tātou e umuumu nei nō teianeī ē nō āpōpō.

No reira, kia mataora, kia manuia ē kia riro tēia mataiti ōu ēi mataiti meitaki atu nō tātou kātoatoa.

Au Kupu no te 'akamata'anga o tēia Mata'iti 'Ōu

Words for the beginning of this New Year

kupu
tākiato
tākiato kōrero
mata'iti 'ōu
'anga'anga tā'okota'i
raverave ma te inangaro tikāi
'akaperepere
vouvou
tā tātou au tamariki
tō tātou ngā metua
to tātou Metua Tapu i te rangi teitei
pāruru
arataki
ao-nātura
mata'iti meitaki, mata'iti mataora

word
phrase
sentence
new year
working together
doing (the duty, job) with real love
loved, treasured one
grandparent (Nga-pu-toru dialect)
our children
our parents
our Heavenly Father
protect, shelter
lead, guide
environment (natural)
good year, happy year

Au Tākiato Kōrero Māori (Māori sentences)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ka inangaro au kia mataora tikāi tēia Mata'iti 'Ōu | 1. I want this New Year to be a happy one. |
| 2. Kia 'anga'anga tā'okota'i tātou i teia Mata'iti 'Ōu | 2. Let us work together this New Year. |
| 3. 'Ākono i tā'au au tamariki. | 3. Look after your children. |
| 4. 'Ākono i tō'ou ngā metua 'ē pērā 'iā vouvou. | 4. Look after your parents and also granny. |
| 5. 'Akaari i tō'ou inangaro ki tō'ou kōpu-tangata. | 5. Show your love and care to your family. |
| 6. 'Ākono i tō tātou `enua | 6. Take care of our island. |
| 7. 'Ākono 'iā kōtou kātoatoa 'ē kia manuia | 7. Look after yourselves and good luck. |



PUBLIC NOTICE



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
SOCIAL IMPACT FUND (SIF)
PROJECT FUNDING**

The SIF provides combined Cook Islands and New Zealand support to Cook Islands Civil Society Sector to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in the community and is focused on 6 priority areas: Gender equality, Children & Youth, Disabilities, The Elderly, Domestic Violence and Mental Health.

The SIF Board now invite proposals for Project Funding in the following eligible project areas

- Community Education Projects
- Training
- Workshops
- Awareness raising activities
- Income generation
- Organisational Strengthening

Please note Infrastructure projects and International travel are not encouraged, but will be considered on a case by case basis.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on telephone 29378 or email angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck Ministry of Internal Affairs. The deadline for submission of Project Funding Application is Thursday 24 April 2014. No applications will be accepted after this date.

TENDER



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
TENDER**

Rarotonga Road Network Improvements

Supply and Construction of Road Network for Project City 3
Hotmix—Contract No. C13/13.2, Chip Seal—Contract No. C13/13.3

Under the Asian Development Bank Economic Recovery Support Programme (ADB – ERSP), the Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) is managing a number of projects related to water supply network upgrade and roadnetwork improvements on Rarotonga.

These contracts involve the improvements of road network within the areas from Panama through Avarua Township to Tupapa.

A copy of each tender document can be collected during work hours from the ICI office in Arorangi. Note that a non-refundable deposit of \$200 will be required before each tender document is issued.

Tenders close at 3pm Friday, 21 March 2014, and must be submitted to the ICI Office in Arorangi in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Document.

Enquiries to: Tenga Mana
Project Engineer
Email: tenga.mana@ici.gov.ck
Phone: +682 20321

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands



**TO ALL MARKET VENDORS
– INTRODUCING THE BTIB BUSINESS
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

- Understand basic book-keeping for your small business
- Understand accounting and how it works using a simple tool (computer/Basic Excel)
- Understand business and personal banking services
- Basic computing
- Basic Business planning
- Types of taxes and how these affect your business
- Accountant support/service

The “BTIB Business Support Program for Market Vendors” will provide services through workshops and skills training programs and assist market vendors to better understand how to manage their business finance and tax obligations.

To take part please contact the BTIB Office for a registration form or contact the Business development team.

Business Development Division
Business Trade Investment Board
Ph 24-296 Fax 24-298
Email: btib@cookislands.gov.ck

Registration closes at 4:00pm on Monday 24th March 2014.



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This report serves as a warning to Cook Islands Politicians Collins handled situation 'very poorly' - PM

By Claire Trevett, Adam Bennett,
Isaac Davison
2:44 PM Wednesday Mar 12,
2014

Prime Minister John Key says Justice Minister Judith Collins has handled the Oravida situation "very poorly", after she admitted having dinner with the company's chairman.

Mrs Collins revealed today she had a dinner with the head of Oravida Stone Shi and a senior Chinese government official while in China last year and admits she was wrong not to disclose the dinner last week.

Mrs Collins has been under pressure to explain her dealings with the milk company Oravida, where her husband is a director and this morning said she was told to reveal the dinner by the Prime Minister chief of staff Wayne Eagleson.

Mr Key told media this afternoon that Mrs Collins was an outstanding minister, but he was very disappointed in her.

He said she had misled media and others by omitting details about her trip to China.

"She had a responsibility to reveal all of the meetings that she held in Beijing, even if one of them was a ... private meeting, and she certainly should have made me aware of that."

Mr Key said her actions had led to accusations of a perception of a conflict of interest, "and that's unacceptable".

He made it clear to her "in no uncertain terms" how disappointed he was in her, and said she could not repeat the mistake.

Asked whether she was on her last chance, Mr Key said: "I wouldn't want to be in her

shoes if there was a repeat of it."

Mr Key said Mrs Collins had still not breached the Cabinet Manual in terms of endorsing a company, but she risked breaching the rules on conflicts of interest.

"It's shades of grey. I've had this situation before (with former MP Richard Worth) and the approach I've taken is the same one, where I've said to the minister it's extremely unwise."

At a media stand up at Parliament today, Mrs Collins said she had a discussion with Mr Eagleson last night and told him of the dinner in Beijing with Mr Shi and Julia Xu - "very very close personal friends" - who are also Oravida's bosses.

Also in attendance was a senior Chinese border control official who was a friend of Mr Shi and Ms Xu. Ms Collins also disclosed she'd attended a luncheon with Mr Shi and Ms Xu earlier the same day.

Mr Eagleson quizzed Ms Collins on her visit last night after Mr Key acknowledged that Ms Collins "promoted" but did not endorse Oravida's products when she visited its Shanghai offices at the end of her trip.

She said in hindsight she could also have treated the dinner as part of the official business of the trip, rather than a private event.

However she continued to maintain there was no conflict of interest in her meetings with Mr Shi or visit to Oravida.

She denied that the dinner would have been of assistance to Oravida.

Mrs Collins' policy advisor was also at the dinner. She would not say who paid for it, but said it was not her or the taxpayer.

"It would have been better

if I had not treated it like a private dinner which it was but had actually reported it through."

"Wayne said to me, and he was quite right, that I should have told you that last week.

"I'm wrong I should have broadened it out."

"If anyone feels that I've done something wrong then I would apologise for that because I should have told you that last week."

To tell reporters and the public she had got something wrong was "not my natural state of affairs", she said.

A spokeswoman for Mr Key confirmed he met with Ms Collins this morning "and expressed his disappointment that the Minister had not advised him earlier of the dinner in China".

"The Prime Minister considers that the cumulative effect of the interaction with Oravida in China may give rise to the perception of a conflict of interest. It was unwise for the Minister to have put herself in this position, and the Prime Minister has made it clear to Ms Collins that she needs to better manage any situation that could give rise to such a perception."

Labour Leader David Cunliffe said Mr Key should stand Ms Collins down "while he gets to the bottom of her secret meetings with Chinese border officials, her policy advisor and the Chinese managing director of her husband's company Oravida".

"Judith Collins has been forced to admit she hasn't told the whole truth about her visit to China last October.

"Now we learn she not only visited Oravida and endorsed its product, but she also had lunch and dinner with the company's boss Stone Shi. This dinner was also attended by a Chinese border official and her policy advisor."

Mr Cunliffe said the presence of a Chinese border official, "raises serious questions about the minister facilitating access for products supplied to Oravida by Sanfords; a company partly owned by the family of National Party President Peter Goodfellow".

"New Zealanders will be dumbfounded these meetings weren't revealed earlier. John Key is well aware how bad this looks. This belated admission of favours for the big end of town is business as usual for the National Party." - NZ Herald

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