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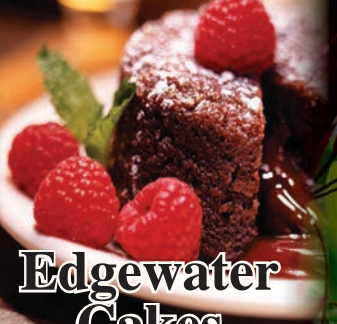
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LETTER TO TEARIKI HEATHER

DEAR DPM TEARIKI HEATHER,

Can you please make the effort to transparently clarify some more questions related to your company T&M Heather Ltd's involvement with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and the \$64 million Te Mato Vai project?

1. Can you confirm the work being carried out by T&M Heather Ltd behind the former Sheraton site in Vaimaanga is for the CCECC and the TMV, also was this work contestable by a public tendering process?

2. Can you confirm that the aggregate stockpiled at Black Rock by T&M Heather Ltd is for the CCECC water project or is it for the proposed reinstatement of the roads in town?

3. Can you confirm that there was no tender advertised for the contract awarded to T&M Heather Ltd to crush and supply this material? How much is this contract worth, \$100,000 - \$300,000 or more? Did your company receive a substantial cash advance prior to any work being started to supply the material?

4. Is it true all contracts of \$30,000 or more have to be tendered by law?

5. Can you confirm that both your new Ministry Infrastructure Cook Islands and T&M Heather Ltd are planning to carry out all remedial works together thus precluding all other local contractors from participating in this TMV contract?

6. Can you confirm why ICI is competing with other local tax paying contractors at the tax payer's expense and to deprive local companies of work needed so as to be able to survive in this environment where only a select few get to be allowed any work?

7. Can you confirm the tenders called to do the main road in town have been withdrawn?

8. Can you confirm that new tenders are being supposedly draw up which favour ICI and your own company being successful and no one else locally being able to get a look in?

9. Can you confirm there is a rule which favours T&M Heather Ltd and for all others a rule weighted not in their favour?

**Your Friend
George Pitt**

Te Mato Vai roll out clumsy and vague

The ill prepared Te Mato Vai project has so many holes in their leaky pipes it has provoked over 2000 people to question the project's professional integrity through a petition that was presented in Parliament this week. Never before has so many people risen up and without fear of repercussions declared their concern in the face of an over bearing government.

Passed off as over excited emotions by some prompted staunch CIP supporters in attempts to extinguish the passion that drives the petition organisers, TMV has failed in its marketing exercise of compliance psychology simply because of the lack of communication dynamics required to penetrate intelligent and questioning people who have a selection of self interests.

The multi contracted communications officer and highly paid Jaewyne McKay is

spread thin and simply out of her depth when it comes to dealing with passionately charged locals. Unable to communicate believable intentions and actual facts TMV has peddled assumptions, vague verbal intentions and numerous muddy cocktails of contradictions to the Master Plan drafts. To expect the public to buy into an open ended unprecedented multimillion dollar project that shifts the goal posts every week hardly breeds confidence in its self.

The public wants factual and credible answers before the TMV project starts not irrational responses like "We will sort that out later," and blurry communication. Those responsible for driving the incomplete TMV business model are irresponsible and should observe the Master Plan recommendation to take 18 months to get everything in place before commencing

development.

With a seriously stagnant economy strangling the fiscal life line of the country the Finance Secretary Richard 'neneva' Neves and his political puppets cannot wait for an injection of cash, a year of project preparation would not service the urgency of the hour. By then the country would be bankrupt.

The TMV project has become a clumsy exhibition of comical proportions. McKay's clumsy approach and ignorant insult to our intelligence is inexcusable. For some one getting paid \$118,000 from her TMV contract, not to mention the others, McKay has no perception for detail and her television commercial is as childish as the actors in it.

Neves' answers to statements referred to in the petition are without substance and naturally cosmetic due to his shallow



Jaewyn McKay

appreciation of the details that are yet to be confirmed or explained. Neves makes too many cheap dismissive and diversionary comments in his usual talk down to the people style. Neves creates more muddy waters than clarity, is it any wonder the TMV project roll out is nothing short of a Faulty Towers exercise? -George Pitt

Letter to the Editor

Another letter CI News refused to publish

We are not dumb

Dear Editor,
In response to the letter titled 'Happy to pay local tax' on 18/3/2014 by the unnamed writer 'Grey Power who spent many years in NZ.'

Your non de-plume indicates that you were unemployed all those many years you were in NZ because one 'spends' time doing nothing useful but 'occupies' time working, therefore you were on the dole. Your ravings in your letter to the editor that 'Grey Power in NZ are professional, technicians, people of skill, experience, maturity and wisdom, blah, blah, blah who advise the Government on good governance' are all fabrications of your imagination.

A Grey power lady from Christchurch NZ marched with our group when we confronted Richard Neves at his office in September last year. She told us that the Grey Power movement in NZ is a lobby group against the Government's moves that will be detrimental to the welfare of the elderly exactly what we are doing here, contrary to what you were trumpeting about.

Further more your discriminatory outburst that the three Grey Power leaders (bad apples) are inferior education-wise to our NZ counterparts is correct. We never claimed to be otherwise. Our local Grade 8 level schooling is nothing to be proud about but hey, it held us in good stead for well over 70 years. But mark this we are not dumb as you seem to be insinuating.

One does not have to be well educated to understand that the back tax the reason Grey Power came into being is a cover up for somebody's shortcomings simple as that! Why should we pay for somebody's boo-boo? Meanwhile enjoy paying your bloated tax package; you seem to have more money than brains.

Denis Tunui
Turangi



SWITCH ON WITH
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One month to go...



It's the beginning of April, the last month of the cyclone season.

And there's no cyclone activity to be seen on the horizon.

But take care. Maintain a lookout. And keep an emergency kit handy: torches, portable battery radio, water containers, tinned foods, can opener, and first aid supplies.

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General Elections in October 2014

CIP under pressure to hold conference

A November General Elections is too close to Christmas and a February 2015 date interferes with the 50th year celebration of self governing celebrations so expect the General Elections to be held in eight months this October.

Right now the Cook Islands Party is insolvent but by July all their debts (nearly \$100,000) should be cleared and at least \$100,000 will be in the campaign war chest thanks to the CIP monster raffle that will be drawn on the 30th June. All CIP candidates are required to contribute \$5000 to a national campaign fund that will have a reserve amount to cover the costs of any potential petitions following the General Elections.

Another stand by alternative is to tap on the DPM Heather's shoulder for a contribution from the millions he will receive from his Te Mato Vai and other government contracts.

Despite reprehensible efforts by Leader Henry Puna to prolong the CIP Conference till after the elections, the Party will be forced by a Court order to convene a Conference no later than the end of May 2014. There are current moves by CIP members to legally bind the Party to have a Conference as there are four serious breaches of the CIP constitution regarding the deferral of a Party Conference which according to their constitution was meant to be held no later than September 2013.

Puna's comments that there will be no traditional national campaigning as there has normally been, but once candidates have been selected by their constituency committees and endorsed by the Party President Rau Nga they conduct their own campaign has infuriated some staunch CIP members.

With a shortage of fire power in the election campaign

engine room, Puna plans to use the Heads of Ministry as his brainstormers. They are expected to do a visionary exercise of their Ministries from which Puna intends to turn into the CIP manifesto. Puna's disregard for flaunting the law is undeniably immoral, public servants are not paid to do the CIP's political work.

At the next CIP Central committee meeting on 7th April the issue of a Party Conference before the General Election will be debated with May being the likely date. All of the Rarotonga CIP committees are pressing for a conference as soon as possible with the pressure to have all positions put on back the table.

To some of the core Party supporters, Puna and Mark Brown's low key approach is as if they are super confident of re election. There is no need for a Party conference to promote unity and a focused vision, nor opportunity for the candidates to build solidarity or to be indoctrinated with the policies. Both Puna and Brown are convinced the work has been

All of the Rarotonga CIP committees are pressing for a conference as soon as possible with the pressure to have all positions put on back the table.

done and the results speak for themselves, in other words no campaign is necessary.

The deluded pair simply cannot see what they are looking at nor are they hearing what they are listening to. Their approach to the next General Elections will damage their re-election chances so much so the CIP can only be assured of winning one solitary seat, that of Aitutaki's Teina Bishop.

If nothing changes in the CIP leadership matrix there has



PM Henry Puna

never been a better time to be a Democratic Party candidate or an Independent, not that the Democratic Party will win the next election but because the CIP most certainly guarantee to lose it.

There is a high expectancy the CIP delegates will oust the unpopular Puna and Brown and most if not all of the executive at their May Party conference giving replacement leadership a narrow window of opportunity to claw back lost ground and be

hold the balance of power to govern. A party founded on principles and practical policies that are affordable instead of the grandstanding politics of personalities the people have had to endure for too long will be a welcomed attraction to discerning voters.

At the moment there is nothing that distinguishes the difference between the CIP and the DP. Both political Parties are replicas of the other with members able to swap party jerseys at random over the last 25 years. While the cruel CIP have no chance of being re-elected and the DP sitting in idle gear waiting for victory to fall in their passive laps, a new third party that is assertive and promotes a difference based on principles and policies will leave both Parties counting their loses after the October General Elections.

A recent random telephone poll of 200 opinions clearly revealed very few thought the CIP and DP had distinguishing differences. The dissatisfaction of both Parties indicates there is opportunity for a third party and or more independent candidates. The DP must now draw the line in the political sand and state their uniqueness with absolute clarity to give voters a genuine alternative choice.

- George Pitt

marginally competitive. There is a lot of work to do in cleansing the offensive odour Puna has soaked the CIP in, he will be a leader seldom mentioned by the CIP in the future due to his tainted legacy and the lingering smell that now characterises the CIP.

Should a new political party emerge from the mire of the politically dysfunctional dumpster created by both the CIP and DP they are certain to win five targeted seats and

Response to Caregivers Allowance

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has responded to recent criticism of its administration of the Caregiver's Allowance by clarifying the purpose and criteria for the payment.

"The caregivers allowance was introduced in 2003 to assist people with high care needs where there is a lack of capacity of the person or by the family to provide that care," stated the Secretary of Internal Affairs, Bredina Drollet.

"The ministry applies two basic tests. One that assesses whether the person needing the care has high care needs. High need is where there is a high degree of incapacity of the person requiring round the clock physical assistance such as the inability to feed or bathe themselves."

"The second test is whether that person has capacity or means to get assistance from his or her own means, including taking into account the ability of the broader family to provide that care and other sources of income that may be available to the person".

Examples of alternative sources of income include the Cook Islands pension, New Zealand Super, superannuation payments such as the former New Zealand Government Superannuation and the former Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme.

Applications for the caregiver allowance are first assessed by officers in the Welfare Division and involves visiting the person that requires care to assess the care needs and the family context in which they live.

Applications are then referred to the Destitute and Infirm Committee, a committee established under the Welfare Act 1989 to consider cases where people are permanently unable to care for themselves. The Committee makes the final decision with regard to the details of the case and with regard to other cases to ensure consistency.

The Destitute and Infirm Committee has noted in recent years an increase in the number of applications being made for example by grandchildren to care for grandparents, wives caring for husbands, and children caring for parents.

"An underlying principle of the Committee when reviewing these cases" says Drollet, "is to avoid the monetisation and consequent erosion of what has essentially been a traditional Cook Islands approach of care for family".

"The payment is not a substitute for full time work as it only pays \$165 a month (\$150 a month prior to the 1 March 2014 increase). There is a high expectation by many people that this will compensate their time away from the workplace. It will

not. It can only ever been seen as Government's contribution to helping people with high care needs who no longer have anyone else to depend on."

Both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are concerned of the impact that ageing will have in the Cook Islands, on both the health and welfare payments system.

"The current system will be inadequate to meet the rising health needs from an aging

population, exacerbated by emigration of the working age population. It is very timely to consider alternative solutions and perhaps move away from the current individual carer's payment to looking at Government funded care provision by supporting the few community service agencies that are already working in this area but are under-resourced."

- Internal Affairs Media Release

Defacto Mayor of Atiu should step down now

By Norman George MP for Teenui-Mapumai (Atiu)

Mr. Taoro Strickland Brown should announce that he will stand down as the defacto Mayor of Atiu, forthwith.

I say he is defacto Mayor because he has previously resigned in 2012 but clawed his way back into the mayor's office, through the backdoor, in a not too honest manner. By this I mean that he used his casting vote to vote himself back in the mayor's office. The 5 member Atiu Island Council voted 3 to 2 against re-admitting him, he added his illegal vote to make it a draw, 3 all then added another illegal casting vote to put himself back in the mayor's office.

All protests to the Prime Minister to remove Strickland Brown from office were ignored. It was treated in the same manner as Minister Teina Bishop. These are areas of political reform that both the PM and Bishop should work on to create good governance.

Taoro Strickland Brown is facing a serious charge of receiving \$13,000 worth of stolen cigarettes. The charge touches the core of integrity in the Mayor's office.

It hurts me and the people of Atiu whenever the Mayor of Atiu's office is mentioned in reference to Taoro and the stolen cigarettes. Atiu's proud name is brought into question and splashed with ill-repute.

I appeal to Taoro Strickland Brown not for the first time and not for the last time – show Atiu some respect and step down.

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Regional Consultation on Climate Services

*Address by Mr Filipe Lucio of the World Meteorological Organisation
At the Regional Consultation on Climate Services for Pacific Small Island States*

This workshop builds on the historical contributions of WMO and various partners and stakeholders in the region in support of weather and climate services, efforts on which we will build as we move forward towards enabling improved availability and application of climate services in the region.

It is well recognized that climate and its variability has always been an important driver of the way civilizations evolved. Throughout history, climate has allowed civilizations to flourish or forced settlements and entire civilizations to migrate. This a major concern, today, particularly for low lying small Island Developing States, who owing to their special circumstances, are challenged with the impacts of climate change and variability such as sea level rise, heavy storms, more frequent and devastating typhoons, just to name a few.

Thus, today the need to adapt to seasonal, annual and multi-decadal climate variations is critical for the very existence and sustainability of Small Islands. The challenge is emended. Fortunately, our understanding of the climate system continues to improve, allowing us to anticipate and even predict future climate. It is therefore possible, now, to provide information that governments, organizations and individuals can use to manage climate risks and

opportunities.

A growing number of countries are establishing capabilities for offering climate services. They are building on their experiences in providing weather and climate information to create customized services targeting specific users. In this way, climate services make it possible to incorporate science-based climate information and prediction into planning and policy to achieve real benefits for society. This is needed because the challenges facing humanity today are increasingly complex, interconnected, in which climate plays a significant role.

Unfortunately, many countries, including the Small Islands in this region have limited capabilities for the production, delivery and effective use of relevant weather, water and climate information and services for contributing to achieving sustainable development.

Expanding the production, distribution and use of relevant and up-to-date climate services can be best achieved by pooling expertise and resources through international cooperation and partnerships. This was recognized by the Heads of State and Governments, Ministers, and Heads of Delegations of over 150 countries and 70 organizations who unanimously decided at the World Climate Conference – 3, held in Geneva,

in 2009, to establish the Global Framework for Climate Services. This recognition shall be stressed here.

Through the Global Framework for Climate Services, UN agencies, development banks, regional institutions, national governments and researchers will work together to generate knowledge, data, information, services and best practices. This collaboration is needed to build greater capacity from the global to the national level for managing the risks and opportunities of climate variability and change and for adapting to climate change. The results will be effective global partnership for identifying and meeting user needs for climate information; the effective application of climate observations, socio-economic data, models and predictions for solving national, regional and global problems; a system for transferring data, information products and services to inform decision making; and increased capacity around the world for producing and using climate services.

The Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services, adopted by the First Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services at the beginning of July 2013, in Geneva, provides an important opportunity to guide the development of capacities that are urgently

needed for enabling improved climate services, delivered in an operational manner to support initially four key priority areas, namely agriculture and food security; water; health and disaster risk reduction. This will be done by capitalizing on the existing capabilities through coordination and integration of existing initiatives and mechanisms and strengthening capacities where they are lacking.

As we gear towards the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and as suggested by the High-level Taskforce of independent advisors that developed the blue print for the Global Framework for Climate Services, particular attention should be paid to the regional and national level. It is at these levels that capacities are mostly needed to ensure that user needs are adequately addressed.

This workshop will provide an appreciation of the current capabilities and challenges with respect to the provision of climate services in this region as well as the pressing needs for Climate Services.

This appreciation will be very valuable for articulating action plans to integrate the actions of various actors to address in a consistent manner the entire value chain to enable enhanced availability and application of climate services in the region.

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CIP spin doctoring and back flipping in a week of political gymnastics



PM Henry Puna



Financial Secretary Richard Neves

Last week we witnessed the unpopular CIP government begin a series of self praise spin doctoring hype in media releases with the generous help of the CI News. Both Mark Brown and Nandi Glassie were given generous space by the daily to write political waffle in the guise of glowing Ministerial reports of their accomplishments in a desperate effort to water down the hostile public criticism justifiably leveled at their unimpressive irreprehensible government.

Try as they may, there is little they can do to undo the mantra of cruelty, uncaring, stealing and lying that's now the ineradicable brand the CIP is recognized for.

Politicians are known to generally flip flop at one time or another; but when an entire government seemingly

flip flops as this one has in the last five days its sure to win a gymnastic Olympic gold medal in the immoral stakes. Not only is this CIP government heartless but it also lacks creative thought, in other words they are thoughtless.

There is very little in their business acumen and there is very little in their ability to see problems way before they occur. So it is with this CIP government, that they decided after several years of dogged determination to stand by their Finance Secretary Neves despite his vast array of decisions to over ride the Prime Minister Henry Puna and his own Minister Mark Brown, perhaps it wasn't over ride, but merely the visionless pair just being devoid of any serious solutions.

Does anyone recall the

embarrassing debacle when the heartless PM pointed the unequivocal finger of blame at the feet of his Financial Secretary Richard Neves and said that it was his fault and, it is 'that man' who was stopping the efforts of Grey Power?

When there was a backlash of public criticism over the Christmas illegal raids of Grey Power member's personal Bank accounts, a nervous Puna refuted his cruel and uncaring tags and claimed the high moral ground by promising to reimburse the money only to back flip when Neves put his foot down and maintained his enforcement of the law.

All along, the pretender Puna knew there would be no reimbursement adding another tag, that of fraudster to the mounting layers. There could be no reimbursements

of the extracted funds because it had to be legally appropriated by a change in the law and only after it met with Neves' approval.

Surely (such is the density of this lot to see just how crazy those decisions made by Neves are) that they are beginning to see the error of his ways. But to be perfectly honest we can and should not blame the neneva Aussie entirely, even though I have made many attempts to point out to the public how poorly our economy has performed under him.

The real blame should sit firmly on the shoulders of the Prime Minister, his Minister of Finance Brown, but above all, that blame is really and should be squarely at the members of Cabinet who despite witnessing the obvious errors kept their mouths closed, despite

knowing that their little boat was up a creek without a paddle they just screwed up their noses. They should be congratulated for their loyalty to their leader, but they should be fired by their constituencies at the very next election. Cabinet decisions are unanimous so we don't know who if any had alternative views.

The PM surely should know better. Much like it was when he advised the 'daily' that James Beer would not be sworn in, in Parliament. That would only mean one thing, that the law book that PM Puna was referring to was really a Marvel Comic book left behind by a child in the first class seating arrangement on Air New Zealand.

We can only wait and see if he has the moral decency and humility to apologize to Parliament's Speaker Nicky Rattle for his agitated baseless comment; this is a lawyer and leader who is simply out of his depth interfering and trying to influence the due process she and her Clerk John Tangi are solely responsible to enact.

Not only is he devoid of solutions Puna is seen mostly as a petty man with his own self interest at heart that has a track record of playing politics with the rules and law. What a poor heart that must be.

The ineptitude of their reasoning and the lack of foresight showed up again this week when they decided to flip flop on the Grey Power Pensioner reimbursements. In a hastily (Two hours notice) convened meeting at his request Brown accompanied by MPs George Maggie and John Henry met with four Grey Power Executives in his office and Brown offered a verbal olive branch to the Grey Power by way of wiping out the back tax.

Brown offered no reimbursements but a tax

credit, another deviation from Puna and Neves' different offers. After repeating publically, they the politician had no say in the back tax issue, without any changes to the law Brown is giving the explicit impression he now has a say. With Neves being absent, after the meeting between the Grey Power reps concluded Brown was being fraudulent and lying that he could cancel the back tax enforcement.

Desperate to avoid another embarrassing Grey Power protest march on the opening of Parliament Brown and his team are playing delaying tactics

Not only is he devoid of solutions Puna is seen mostly as a petty man with his own self interest at heart that has a track record of playing politics with the rules and law. What a poor heart that must be.

pretending they will amend the law during the sitting of the House when in fact their purpose to convene Parliament is to pass the VAT increase and the Supplementary Budget before closing sine die, three days the likely duration.

Brown, Neves and Haigh attended a Grey Power meeting on Tuesday 1 April but after a short introduction Brown left leaving Neves and Haigh to face the meeting. The Grey Power refused to compromise on the back flip offer from Neves and agreed to a protest March to Parliament on Wednesday 2 April.

Just when the political back flipping political somersaulting was over saturating the news Brown could not resist one more for

the road. This time, under pressure from the Growers who's President Rau Nga is also the CIP President came from out of the blue to force Brown to make so many silly illogical comments about the levies on fruit and vegetables. Brown once the Secretary for Agriculture we would of thought he could communicate intelligently on the subject of agriculture matters and produce import substitution.

Off the record, Nga's adverse comments indicate he isn't complementary of the CIP cabinet, but then when faced with them, like the rest of the CIP Executive

Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) who advocates the "Go Local" slogan and promotes import substitution, but on the other hand Turepu as the Minister of Agriculture was endorsing the death warrant of locally grown produce in favor of cheap imports. Turepu has no excuse for failing to grasp the importance of food security, a major global issue of concern.

Rather than encouraging younger planters to enter the agriculture sector as a business through subsidies, incentives and support services Turepu's solution was to increase hardship by agreeing to the agriculture void Neves. Up until the late 1990s Planters and Fishermen were not taxed and once that changed the incentive to do either waned.

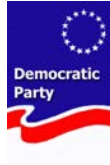
In this latest flurry of political flip flopping regarding import levies, Puna and his yes men Brown and Turepu behave like amateurs playing politics not knowing how to plan, or how to formulate, that they spent so much of our resources preparing a position, only at the final hour before Parliament is to sit, that they rushed through another poorly thought out amendment on fruit and vegetable imports.

These three Stooges lacked any serious conviction to put forward bold policies, instead treading so softly as to not wake themselves from their slumber and changing things with no clear plan on a way forward. With this poor planning it's any wonder we are all poorer because of them.

This government is fast looking like back tracking on everything, just wait; those that haven't sold their souls for a Cabinet position may wake up and be compelled by their conscious that the VAT is a mistake....that would be a real awakening!

George Pitt

On the one hand Turepu is the Minister of Business



Can you read between the ~~Lines~~ LIES?

R.I.P Term of C.I.P Madness.

This is what they said:

There will NOT be an increase in VAT. Yeah Right!

The purpose for the increase is for tax payers to fund the PM and his Cabinet travel extravagances.

We will refund the pensioner money. Yeah Right!

The latest back tracking proves it was wrong from the beginning, what other reason is there?

There will be NO more With Holding tax after 2 years.

Yeah Right!

We'll just change its name and still tax interest on savings.

No conflict of interest in the T&MV? Yeah Right!

70 million dollars worth of pipe dreams.

'We will NOT tax our local pensions'. Yeah Right!

We'll just give on one hand and TAX more from the other.

Show us the mandate to sell TCI shares?

You have none! Make 1 of your election platforms the sale then lets see if the electorates buy it.

Memories of my fallen M.P. friends

By Norman George MP for Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

As I come to the last segment of this weekly column, and remember I did a recount and realise that 30 and not 29 of MP's that I served with have passed on. Let me share this last lot before hanging up my pen. It was boredom during the last Christmas holidays which drove me to do the column.

Maybe when I get bored again, I will resume writing....something else.

Upoko Simpson is my first cousin, our great grandfather, Captain Joseph Simpson, a sea whaling captain, came from Scotland in the 1850's. We belong to the Frazer clan of Scotland. Upoko was one hard working man, he worked for the department of Agriculture all of his life. Like all his co-workers in agriculture, he suffered being exposed to pesticides and other chemicals.

Papa Poko in his sunset years suffered from chronic coughing, shortness of breath and respiratory ailments. Despite his illness the man continued to work like an Ox.

He was one of Atiu's biggest growers, farmer and business man. When he was too ill to continue, he resigned from the Teenui Mapumai seat. I took over and won the subsequent by-election in 2006. Poko was a very popular MP. I treated him like an older brother and very truly miss him.

Raymond Pirangi entered Parliament as a CIP candidate for Ruaau. He crossed to the Democratic Party when Sir Geoffery Henry walked out of the Demo-CIP coalition government in 1984. Raymond was a very flamboyant character. He was a very successful business man. He had rental cars; he bottled soft drinks and was a big time planter. He created the Highlands

Paradise business on Raemaru-Mountain.

Raymond was Minister of Works in the Coalition government. He was the first Minister I know who kept a box of corned beef under his office desk. He and his workers will help themselves at lunch time, when Raymond was in a good mood.

His exit from Parliament was a little cruel. During the general elections Raymond was very confident of winning his seat. He was popular in Ruaau. When the booths closed at 6pm, a huge crowd gathered at Ray's home to drink Ray's steinlager and eat massive amounts of barbequed food. Raymond counted 300 people present.

When the results started coming in about 8pm, it read like this "Raymond Pirangi 150". He got on the back of his truck to address the crowd. Expletives, curses, swear words, profanities, and obscenities were expressed. Instantly bodies darted in different directions – all but a few of the 300 or so cheats disappeared into the dark. The perils of politics and the guilability of cheating electors. Poor Raymond.

He and I were great mates. I was very saddened at his passing many years later.

Boy Tepai took over Raymond Pirangi's seat. Boy was a Demo but was persuaded by the CIP to stand for them. Before that Boy was a long serving plumber for the Public Works. He knew the Rarotonga water pipe system inside out. He was a good rugby player for the Arorangi A team in his youth. He was a two termer. A great guy to be with. He raised no thunder and lightning in debates, but he made some very cheerful speeches in Maori.

Papa Matapo Matapo was MP for Titikaveka. He was a legendary planter and exporter from the 50's, 60's and 70's.

He was a CIP MP. His sudden passing in 1983 deprived the CIP of a Parliamentary majority. We ended up having 2 elections in 1983. The Demos were voted back in power in November 1983.

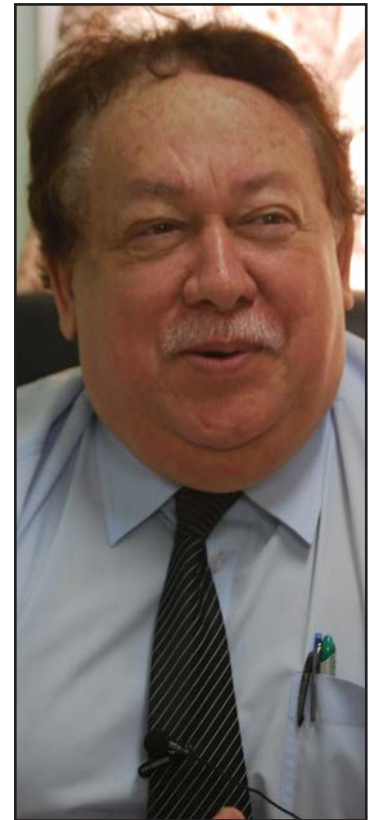
Niroa Manuela was a surveyor with the department of survey. When he retired, he stood as CIP MP for Nikao. He followed after Vincent Ingram. After that Auntie Mau took over and she has been the Demo MP for Nikao up to now.

Niroa was a modest quietly spoken man. He was a hard physical worker. He was a good planter and owned several shops, restaurants and flats. Many of his businesses are still operating today.

Papa Kura Strickland was a model MP for the CIP representing Amuri-Ureia. He was always neat in appearance. He never drank alcohol and was secretary of the Avarua Christian Church for 31 years. He was a good planter and business man. He supported the theological students and the main church in Avarua.

All proceeds of his growing were shared with the church. He was of the old school. A good debater mainly in Maori. The only time I crossed him was when I accused the then CIP government of breaching human rights "what human rights? We have traditional human rights that's all it matters said Papa Kura".

Piho Rua was former Policeman. He was a one term MP. He excelled in entertainment; he led a dance group called Te Ivi Maori for about 20 years. He was truly gifted in local dancing, drumbeats and all forms of traditional entertainment. Never far from the mirror. He prided in his appearance. Even when he went for walks, he tiptoed to ensure he did not ruffle his hair.



He never drank alcohol. He held an Inspectors rank in the Police. I was shocked by his early passing in his mid 50's....

My MP friends did not expect this from me. Outside of Parliament, we treat each other as friends. In my book all MP's of whatever Party are good patriots, and great solid Cook Islanders who love their country profoundly. Their immortality is guaranteed by mentions like this. Check your life by counting how many friends you have, check your happiness by how many smiles you raise, sadness by the tears you witness and immortality by what you leave behind. As a classic optimist, I can start counting on my current 23 MP friends who are alive and well as part of my list of personal friends. I have no wish to see their numbers reduced!

Thank you all to those who have expressed enjoyment in reading this column. Kia Orana.

Regional Consultation on Climate Services



Rarotonga, 31 March 2014

Opening Address by Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

Kia Orana

Representatives of the Office of the Global Framework for Climate Services of WMO, SPREP

Representatives of international organisations

Representatives from National Met and Hydro Services

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thanks for joining us in the Cook Islands on the occasion of this regional consultation – we've tried our best to provide the best possible climate and surroundings for this meeting but as we always say: we're in God's Hands. Whether it's a case of rain or shine, it's always considered a blessing.

Climate Services and the multiple threads that are woven into our weather-related functions and activities have a deep and meaningful role in our lives.

There's no doubt that the Global Framework for Climate Services reflects just how challenging it is to bring those threads together in a coordinated and constructive way, particularly for Small Islands Developing States.

In the nearly five years since we endorsed the establishment of GFCS, the Cook Islands – like many SIDS – has undergone tremendous development change, alongside significant shifts in population movements and investment patterns – both public and private.

The vulnerabilities and constraints however, have remained constant.

Risk management, adaptation, and preparedness have grown more important than ever, as has the need for our cooperative frameworks to be strengthened.

So our thanks go to the WMO and SPREP for leading this joint effort to bring our key meteorological and hydro services together in the context of sustainable economic planning and development in the Pacific.

Your discussions over the coming days will better inform the ways in which the GFCS can serve our collective and national interests, and contribute to the Pacific's environment and development campaign at the forthcoming 3rd SIDS Conference in Apia, later this year.

In welcoming you all here today, and opening your meeting, I add my voice in support of the Pacific building stronger, active linkages between climate change and variability and our long term sustainable development.

During this term as Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, I was fortunate to have hosted the Pacific Islands Forum and help drive and strengthen our collective thinking on global issues and how we can better approach those concerns as island states.

The sustained management of our oceans' resources and the transformation of our energy use to renewables have been

key components of my support for sustainable development initiatives.

And cutting across these efforts is the stark and perpetual reminder of the impacts of climate change and variability, and the services we depend on to safeguard the investments in our future.

A clear example demonstrating this challenge is our current programme of energy conversion in our Northern Group – an area of the Pacific prone to the formation of cyclones and the adversity of extreme and unstable weather.

Early warning systems, smarter communication, and preparedness, are key support factors in the reduction of risks to this major development.

The Global Framework for Climate Services should therefore continue to enhance our ability to manage and share vital information, and promote the necessary mechanisms to protect our vulnerable communities at the grassroots.

National capacity-building and support remains critical, as does the timely application of adequate resources to address Climate services' priorities and needs.

It gives me pleasure to join you all in opening this meeting, and to wish you success, as we look forward to enhancing our network of cooperation with WMO, SPREP, and other stakeholder organisations in the region and beyond.

Kia Manuia

A first for a Pacific woman



By Charles Pitt

Dr Netatua (Neta) Pelesikoti (a Tongan) is Director of the Climate Change Division at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme-SPREP which is based in Apia Samoa. She is in Rarotonga for the Regional Consultation on Climate Services for Pacific Small Island States and Related Meetings being held at the Rarotonga Resort and Spa conference room from 31 March – 4 April 2014.

Along with SPREP, the Global Framework for Climate Services-GFCS and the World Meteorological Organisation are also supporting this regional get together which has drawn weather and climate experts from around the region to workshop, discuss and exchange ideas.

On the morning of the first day, Neta spoke on climate risk management in Pacific Small Island Developing States-SIDS (policies, strategies and initiatives) including the draft strategy for climate and disaster risk development in the Pacific (SRDP).

Neta has the distinction of being the first Pacific woman to peer review information published in regional journals and books for the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Neta was a member of the Internal Panel on Climate Change and was involved with Working Group 2 which peer reviewed reports on Vulnerability and Impacts for Chapter 29 on Small Island States. She was one of the lead authors. The literature reviewed was for the period 2007 to 2012. Neta said the review is carried out every four years.

Interestingly there were no reports in the review period for the Cook Islands.

The peer review process subjects scientific papers to independent scrutiny by other qualified scientific experts, or peers. It is an important means of maintaining quality control and accuracy within the scientific community. Peer reviewed publication provides credibility for the author and confidence for other researchers to cite the material.

Neta says there is a lack of peer reviewed literature originating in the Pacific. Governments, academic institutions and intergovernmental organizations all have a role to play in addressing this gap. Lack of resources is a concern. Small Pacific countries may not have the capacity to fund research.

In Chapter 29 in the latest report, the summary for policy makers will assist Pacific governments.

Neta is a Coastal Ecologist by profession and a specialist in coral reefs and sea grass. She worked for the Tongan government for 20 years before joining SPREP where she has been for the last five years.

Interestingly her surname Pelesikoti is the Tongan version of Prescott.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

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PRINTER INK Cartridges

Be skeptical of low-cartridge warnings. Warnings that a given color cartridge is running low and needs to be replaced often start well before the ink level is actually a problem. The accuracy of such warnings can vary greatly between printer brands and models, and you don't want to waste ink and money by replacing the cartridges too soon. In time you'll learn whether your printer's warnings are dire or premature. Until then, don't rush to replace a cartridge, unless you notice degradation in the output quality or if you are starting a large and vital print job.



Take care of your ink and toner. With older ink cartridges, particulates may come out of solution and clog the nozzles. To prevent this, don't overstock on ink cartridges so they extend past their "use by" date. Also, match cartridge capacity to how much you actually print, to avoid having large-capacity cartridges languish beyond their time. (It's also a good idea to regularly clean the nozzles—your printer should have a setting that will clean the nozzles and print out a test sheet.)



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Prophecy for the Cook Islands

By Temu Ngarima George Pastor/
Evangelist

Introduction

On the 26 October 2013 the people of Aitutaki living in Melbourne celebrated the 92 years of the arrival of Christianity to Araura Enuā.

The celebration was held at the Cheltenham College Theatre and a seating of about 500 people.

The hall was packed with the people of Ararua Enuā as well as the Cook Islands Community of other island groups.

Prior to our travel by car the Lord spoke to me, "My son I want you to go to this celebration and "TELL."

I asked the Lord, "Please, what do you want me to Tell?"

The only answer I received was, "Just go and I will put words into your mouth."

When we got to the meeting place the people were sitting outside and I asked, "Why are you sitting outside?"

They said the hall was packed and there were no spare seats. We made our way in and guess what? God had already reserved two seats for my wife and I.

The service

The praise and worship by the Clayton Community Church was great and very exciting with everyone singing and dancing under the leadership of Pastor Tereapii Kiria. The preaching of the word was delivered by Reverend Iripa Makitoko. The people were laughing and crying because of what he was sharing, the things that God showed him.

After the preaching of the word, the President of the Aitutaki Enuā took the pulpit to finish the service and everyone was to go for a big time kai kai.

I asked the Lord, "What do you want me to do?"

He said, "Just wait."

Friends, out of the blue, Eric Tom, President of the Araura Enuā announced, "Before I

close with a prayer, I would like to give at least one or two people the chance to say something."

The Lord said, "Go."

As I walked to the pulpit people started to shout and call out "Ere e te Ra."

I got to the pulpit. I was in shock, shaking for a minute and a half. I tried to calm down and asked the Lord what to tell the people. He lead me to Genesis 7: 1-24. This was the story of Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives-eight people who survived the great flood.

What the prophecy means

Figure eight is a survival number. From 2014 -2021 is exactly eight years meaning God is doing quick work in this eight years. God has already ordained men and women to train and teach people from the age of eight years to 35yrs. The teaching and training will be based on the five fold Ministry of the Church in Ephesians 4: 11-13, "And he gave some, apostles and some, prophets, and some evangelists and some, Pastors and teachers."

Ezekiel 47:1 The waters that came out of the house of God.

Verse 3 Waters to the ankle, means early stage, this for young children. They will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and they will testify seeing great miracles in the spirit and also angels.

Verse 4 Waters were to the knees -means the young generation will be trained and taught of the things of God and they will prophesy.

Waters to the loins-means people of the age of 30-60yrs will dream dreams.

Verse 5 Waters risen, waters to swim in a river. The current at this time is very strong that the feet cannot touch the bottom. Flow through the current.

Verses 6-9 On both sides of the river, trees bearing fruits good to eat and their leaves good for the healing of the

people. God will bring healing to the sick. Fruit and plant leaves will be on the market for medicine. The dry heart of mankind will be filled with the healing water of the Holy Spirit.

Verses 10-14 The fishes of the sea will come to drink fresh water-means the nations of the Pacific and the world will come to the Cook Islands within these eight years of preparation. The people see more of the blessing in Aitutaki then Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, Rarotonga, Mangaia and then to the northern islands of the Cook Islands and afterward to the Pacific islands and the whole world.

Verse 12-13 " For the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Joined by Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Read Jeremiah. The old covenant is no longer available. Our forefathers went overseas as missionaries proclaiming



Ngarima George

the Gospel. Many of them are not with us. However, God says He is making a New Covenant to us the generation of today and the future. He will be our God and we will be His people. He will put His words in our hearts as the five fold Ministry of the Church doing their training. God will not remember our sins, no more.

In the Book of Habakkuk 2: 2-3 God told the prophet to write the vision on tables and run. We would like to ask you to take it to heart and read the vision and seek the Lord. The Bible says the vision is for an appointed time and it will speak, tarry it will come.

Kia Orana and kia manuia.

Letter to the Editor

Overstayers

Dear Editor
Overstayers

In my view, there are too many overstayers on our islands. Some of them are working and some are playing rugby league. I believe some of them are enjoying their stay on the islands without fear and thinking that they are free.

Some of these overstayers are being helped by the Immigration Department, some by private business people and some by our own people.

Working visas

What is being done about those overstayers who carry on working when their visas are expired? Some go on to work for other people. Could the Immigration Department explain to the public what's involved with working visas. What happens when people continue to work and their visas have expired? What rights do overstayers have if this happens and why isn't the law being enforced?

The public needs answers and an explanation from the Immigration Department.

Jimmy Marsters

What went down at the Food Festie!

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

Hello everyone! Before I get into it, may I just say that the number of Zika cases on the island is increasing at such a fast rate, that it's ridiculous. Stock up on mosquito coils or fly spray, keep your yard clean and join the fight against mozzies! It sucks having Zika (for one thing, the rash it gives you makes you look ugly) so be sure to look after yourselves as well as your families.

Okay, back to the topic at hand. The Tereora College Food Festival, which was held at Te Atakura Grounds on Friday the 28th March, was ultimately a success. The school's combined efforts managed to raise over \$30,000 within five hours! That could buy me 10 Jupiter motorbikes and a new iPhone 5S (Hah! If only...) Now, the million dollar question is, what exactly will this thirty grand be spent on? First of all, Tereora really needs an upgrade in its facilities, so purchasing new school resources is a must. But some other interesting suggestions came through from

the students. The money could help alleviate school fees (which can be as high as 170 bucks!) or to build brand new facilities. I think I heard something about a school swimming pool, but we'll see how that one goes.

That Friday, I had a VERY early morning (I'm talking about 4:30am kind of early. I only managed to grab three hours of sleep max) My chicka, Dean, was looking like the triple F's: Fabulous, Fierce and Flossy! Being the kind of person he is Dean went all out on his costume: tutu, eyeliner, the whole package. We would definitely be attracting customers with him around. I settled for a more casual look, but at least the colours of my outfit matched with his (Like a Boss).

Our arrival to Te Atakura must have set everything in action, because everyone was scurrying around trying to set up their stalls. I looked to my left and spotted my Absolutely Amazing Anau (Triple A's. Get it?) who had already gotten everything sussed. I was amazed at how elegant our stall was, compared

to the others. Suffice to say that it was a mighty fine Candy Shop (we were selling sweet things, ideal for people who suffer from a sweet tooth) We even had a beautifully decorated picket sign, which was proudly shown off for all the world to see.

On the menu were snowballs, fruit roll ups, coconut ice, choc-dipped bananas, chocolate and Russian fudges. On the side, we had a 'Guess how many lollies in the Container' activity (Because jars are so over-rated) and a 'Pop the Balloon' game (which was our biggest money earner). Basically, you try and hit a balloon with a dart. If you get the right balloon, you get a \$10 top up or another prize (a cute piggy bank, a handy Westpac bag, a Turtle Tin bank or a squishy/stress ball. Courtesy of Westpac Bank) These were kindly sponsored by Westpac Bank. The Anau students of CC Ikurangi really appreciated it. You guys rock! Our Pop the Balloon game was reeling in the customers and they were willing to spend their cash (we making it rain up in here!)



Dean and I ran around like idiots in search of the perfect BBQ plate (because the Mexican stall had sold out #grumpy) I also tried out a nutella pastry, a tropical smoothie and this kind of dessert which was stuffed in a watermelon (It was like, OMG!)

One barbeque stall was selling out so fast, that they were smokin'! Literally. From what I heard, the oil from their BBQ caught on fire. But it was this particular stall that made the most money out of all of us. Whoop-dee-do for you guys!

To sum it all up, it was a crazy and fun day.

My weekend at RYPEN camp

By *Nadia George*

Thursday morning friend Justin and I flew all the way to New Zealand, for a weekend long camp at Camp Adair. We endured a sleepless four hour flight all the way to Auckland to wait some more for our rides to show up at 5AM. Oh did I also mention that the entire trip was sponsored by Rotary and Air New Zealand.

We needed to be at the bus pickup point outside Countdown in Takanini at exactly 3:45 PM. On our way there, my uncle and I stopped into the Warehouse to get me a sleeping bag, then it was off to the pick up point. We got there, bang on 3:45pm and what do you know, the bus was delayed because of an accident on the motorway. Just great! So after spending an hour and a half in the car park the bus had arrived and we were finally on our way. Justin and I had made a grand total of one friend during that bus ride, so we were feeling

a bit anti. Anyway, we get to camp and a whole bunch of other kids were already there. Ticking off our names on the attendance roster, everyone made their ways to their designated cabins to get settled in.

With about eighty kids attending, we were all split into smaller teams of ten or so people. I was in team yellow, which we renamed as the Wassabi Ninjas, while Justin was in the Red team. Throughout the camp we did all sorts of fun activities, like the ones you see on those American movies about summer camp or fat camp. A confidence course, where we had to dive through a pool of mud and army crawl under a set of obstacles. A mud slide, which wasn't really very muddy. Low ropes, high ropes, multi vines, just about any sort of camp activity you can think of that involves a harness and ropes. "BTW", I totally freaked out on the multi vines, because I just wasn't comfortable dangling

so high up in the air lol. Then there was the camp fire, badly rehearsed skits and a Burma trail. Not forgetting the amazing speakers that took time out of their busy schedule to come talk to us about changing our perspectives on life. Marc Duffy spoke about how it's never too late to turn your life around. That success lies in Cans and not Cant's. Nick Tuitasi, taught us all that, "it's not how you start that matters, its how you finish". And another, about smiling being the best drug.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to take part in the RYPEN 2014 camp. From it all I have gained new experiences, built new bonds and made some unforgettable memories with a bunch of amazing people. I am saddened that like all good things, it came to an end. But the most important thing I've taken away from this camp is that, its not how you start that matters... its how you finish.



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Cook Islands Tourism Corporation seeks to purchase photography to be used for the general promotion of the Cook Islands. This is an ongoing project to reach out to all photographers, both professional and amateur, in the Cook Islands and beyond.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will use this photography to reach target audiences in the print and digital space. This includes the outright purchase of imagery for use including (but not limited to) content for online, multimedia, brochures, books, displays and promotional material.

This will form a part of the Corporations asset management programme, photographic library and archival system housed at Head Office, Rarotonga.

Photographers may submit work on any of the following types of photographic categories:

- Destination, Landscape, Scenery & Nature
- Persons, talent, characters, children
- Action & Interaction
- Life style
- Above & Under the Water
- Tourism Themes

Images portraying the Cook Islands stories of:

- Romance (weddings & honeymoons),
- Families,
- Adventure,
- Sister islands,
- Groups/MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events)

All expressions of interest can be made in writing to applications@cookislands.gov.ck. NO submissions of imagery required at this stage. Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will be in touch to make an appointment with you to discuss the service arrangements and to view the said images. It is a requirement that all work submitted adheres to technical and commercial image control, format and standards set by Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. The work will be accepted on the terms and conditions of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation purchase agreement and sign over of complete Intellectual rights and digital property rights upon purchase of these assets.

For further information please refer to:
www.cookislands.travel/photo-services

Deadline for expression of interest is 4pm, 01 May 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

15

**Replacement of ring mains
begins next month**

The \$23 million upgrade to Rarotonga's water system ring mains is scheduled to begin on **Monday 14 April**. The project is part of Te Mato Vai – the \$60 million Cook Islands water partnership with the New Zealand government and The People's Republic of China. Government is embarking on the project with the goal of delivering a reliable supply of safe drinking water to all properties connected to the existing water network by 2016.

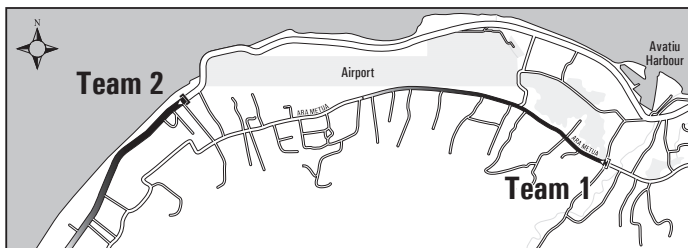
What is happening and when?

We are upgrading the existing water supply network for all of Rarotonga along both the inner and outer ring roads or loop roads as they are sometimes referred to. The Ara Metua (inner ring road) work crew **Team 1** will start from the Avatiu Road intersection and progress West finishing at Tiare Village Road, Avatiu/Atupa. **Team 1** will work from **7am – 6pm Monday 14 April to Saturday 24 May**. The Ara Tapu (outer ring road) work crew **Team 2** will start from Pokonui Street, Nikao progressing in a

South-west or anti-clockwise direction. **Team 2** will commence in May.

How will this affect me?

Traffic control will be in place during construction. To prevent damage to your vehicles and our work machinery, we ask that you please drive carefully through the worksites, comply with traffic control staff as directed and observe the temporary speed limits. Your safety and the safety of our work crews are of utmost importance. Our goal is that at the end of the day everybody arrives home safely.



Some disruption can be expected due to the nature of the works. For further information on the project please call Infrastructure Cook Islands on 20 321. Alternatively emails can be sent to Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com

For all site related inquiries please call Nicky Nie of CCECC on 79 519.

Te Mato Vai is a vital component of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2011 – 2015 and complements a range of work underway in the renewable energy, tourism, education, health, transport and economic sectors. All designed to ensure a more prosperous future all Cook Islanders.



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TENDER



**TAU SAFETY PROJECT
DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION TENDER**

Te Aponga Uira is inviting suitably qualified companies or joint venture companies to submit to (a) conduct a review of, and complete a Fire Safety Assessment of TAU Power Station in the Avatiu Valley, including its Fuel Facility Depot, as well as the Tutakimoa Administration-Network Building assets, and (b) design and specify the fire safety systems for those facilities in order to upgrade the existing systems to meet current Australian and New Zealand standards.

The assignment is to lead to the completion of the Fire Safety Designer's Documentation, including plans and specifications to Australian and New Zealand standards for building consent and construction to mitigate and prevent fire damage for all of TAU's strategic assets forming the Avatiu Valley Power Station and the Tutakimoa Administration-Network Buildings, Rarotonga.

The successful Tenderer will be required to oversee the procurement, acceptance testing, installation, commissioning, and review and certification of as built drawings, for the fire safety system that they have designed and that was approved by TAU. To initiate progress towards the completion of this assignment, TAU has developed Request for Proposals Documents and Term of Reference (TOR) for the associated tasks and now invites interested companies to register their interest in order to submit their proposal for this assignment.

Registration and Tender Document can be requested from the following contact person:

TAU Project Manager
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Ph: +682 20054
Fax: +682 21944

Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

The proposed timeframes for the bidding process are set out below in Cook Islands local time:

Deadline for submission of questions:

3pm Thursday 11 April 2014

Deadline for submissions of Proposals:

3pm Thursday 18 April 2014

Notification to preferred Tenderer:

Week of Monday 28 April 2014

Preferred Tenderer negotiations:

From the week 28 April 2014

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PUBLIC NOTICE



**2013/2014 NZAID
SHORT TERM TRAINING AWARDS (STTA)**

Employers wishing to develop staff skills through STTA are invited to apply for assistance under the NZID Bilateral Aid training Programme. This can include new short courses and attachments in workplaces or training organizations. We have 4 placements available for this Financial Year.

Studies to complete tertiary certificates and diplomas will not be eligible under this programme.

STTA will not be awarded where the proposed training is available in-country.

For further information and application forms, contact Anna Roi on ph 29357 ext. 245 or email scholarships@education.gov.ck

Application forms must be received no later than 12pm Thursday 3rd April 2014.



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
(ICI)**

Request for Quotes— WATSAN Communications Advisor

ICI requests for quotes from suitably qualified, experienced, highly motivated and enthusiastic persons for the position of WATSAN Communications Advisor in its Water, Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) Unit to coordinate the implementation and delivery of the Communications work stream within the Unit. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a team, tasked with making improvements in infrastructure, policy and practice that will contribute to protecting and enhancing the lagoon and ocean environments around our islands.

WATSAN requires specialist communications advice and assistance in order to complete implementation of critical elements of the Waste Management Initiative (WMI) and the upcoming Sanitation Upgrade Programme (SUP). It proposes to engage the Communications Advisor on a short-term contract in order to provide the required expertise and input.

If you are interested in this position, a copy of the ToR can be provided upon which you will be required to submit as part of your request for quotes, a covering letter and CV along with your proposed quotes to:

Mr Mac Mokoroa
Secretary
Infrastructure Cook Islands
PO Box 102
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

The closing date for request for quotes is 3pm on Friday 4th April 2014

For more information or a copy of the TOR please contact Tangi Taoro by phone on 20-321 or by email at tangi.taoro@ici.gov.ck



A Response to the Te Mato Vai Petition Points: Authorised by Cabinet, Cook Islands Government



1. Cook Islanders are fundamentally opposed to paying for water so any water project premised on vague and uncertain 'user pays' principles is unacceptable.

Cook Islanders already pay for water.

Cost are a combination of their taxes and purchasing potable water from commercial vendors and recently very expensively – even when subsidised by ICI – by having to buy truck-loads over this past summer. Families in some villages never received a drop of water down the water main for two months over the Christmas/New Year period and were having to buy a tank full of water every week to satisfy their family needs. Currently eight trucks and their crews are working 24 hours a day to try and keep up with the need for water.

In addition to that it is likely that in the present system the cost of paying for water falls very unevenly with families subsidising major users like resorts and plantation owners and other commercial and industrial users.

Once the new water system is up and running effectively, and only then will there be a new fairer system of payment – not for the water, but for the cost of delivering it and maintaining the infrastructure that delivers the water – so that there is a completely transparent and dedicated fund to ensure the system is properly maintained and replaced and we don't end up with the inefficient and run-down system we have now.

Prior to any system of payment being introduced there will be consultation with all stakeholders.

There are no vagaries around this, let's get the system up and running so that people know that when they turn on the tap they will have water that is reliable and safe

for their family, visitors and workers.

A suitable payment system will be developed and options will be consulted on in due course; but any new system will have fairness and equity as its pillars.

Water will be charged on excessive use basis, for households there will be a free allocation, for business they will be charged for all use. Charging for water will drive behaviour changes, incentivising conservation and rain water harvesting, particularly in the commercial sector. This will reduce water demand.

2. Te Mato Vai Rarotonga upgrade currently costed between \$60M and \$73M is an unnecessarily extravagant burden to place on the consumers and taxpayers of this country and has all the hallmarks of repeating the Sheraton Hotel debacle of the late 1980s

Comparisons between Te Mato Vai and the Sheraton are deliberately mischievous. The investment proposed by the Government is nothing like the Sheraton. This is an investment in infrastructure which is for the overall public good; everyone in Rarotonga needs water and accesses water.

Unlike the Sheraton where nothing existed, there currently is a decrepit water system in Rarotonga which simply requires renewal after many years of neglect.

Unfortunately emotional statements such as the one above do not really contribute much to the very serious discussions that are taking place about this new water system.

Unlike the Sheraton, there has been considerable consultation, the government has shared all of the elements in the DRAFT master plan without holding anything back and that has been debated and consulted on and

people's concerns have been noted and changes will now be made to the plan.

Those changes will be publicised shortly, and costs have been taken out of the original draft in order to reduce the price of the project. The government is confident that funding arrangements are in place to cover what is now in the master plan.

3. Te Mato Vai project is based on too many questionable assumptions and is being pursued with scant regard to cheaper options

It is unclear exactly what the "too many questionable assumptions" referred to in point 3 are.

There are few technical assumptions in the draft Master Plan but all will be addressed when the detailed investigations of the detailed design starts. In saying that, the majority of the data that was used in the draft Master Plan were collected from appropriate agencies that deal with these specific roles in the country, such as Statistics, meteorological services, rainwater data collection etc.

The assumptions are on the basis of a strong scientific methodology. The metering which is currently being conducted is expected to broadly confirm the assumptions on which Te Mato is based.

Cheaper options abound and like something you buy from a \$2 shop, if you get your \$2 worth you're lucky.

Unfortunately the government won't be thanked for undertaking 'cheap' options, which soon break down and cost more money to fix. Instead we are working on a project that is designed to last Rarotonga and the country decades into the future with health benefits, commercial benefits, and that is cost effective and efficient. Our people shouldn't have to settle for anything less.

4. Te Mato Vai has over-estimated the volume of water required which means excessive infrastructure being built; it has failed to take account of privately owned water storage capacity as a result of the water tank subsidy; it provides inadequate storage to meet drought conditions; it has failed to translate loan repayment obligations into annual rates per household and fails to address responsibility should a budget blowout occur

The amount of water Te Mato Vai is looking to deliver is based on government statistics of the estimated population in the years of the projects life. It is difficult to comprehend what other alternate figures delivery should be based on.

For any engineering design around the world, engineers will always factor what it terms as "risk factor worst case scenario"; for example on water design, one will have to consider the volume of water estimated in the, usually, 30 years in the future and also taking into consideration the peak factors. If you under-estimate the volume, you will run into a risk of so many shortage issues straight after project commission. On the other-hand, we do currently have a very high demand which should be a first priority issue to resolve and under-estimating design volume is definitely not an option that an experienced engineer will take in this case.

The amount of water required under Te Mato Vai is designed to deliver a daily amount of water per person based on comparable water systems and consumption in New Zealand and some of our Pacific neighbours like Fiji and Samoa. Doing so will actually drastically reduce the huge wastage of water that disappears down the pipes from the intakes never to be seen again, never reaching the consumers it was intended for. Throughout

the world water is regarded as a very precious commodity and we cannot continue to waste it in the way we are with our present inefficient system.

Rather than waste that water Te Mato Vai will look to increase storage at the intakes to increase resilience during drought periods.

Encouraging people to install tanks and harvest the rainfall off their roof can only enhance our water security. Introducing a transparent payment system like that mentioned in point 1 above would also act as an incentive to conserve water, and to collect rainwater.

5. The savings on loan repayment by adopting cheaper options and reducing contributions from the local budget would mean more funds available for education, health and other struggling public services

Conversely the failure of 'cheaper' piece meal options will add further unbudgeted costs; require annoying and disruptive remedial work, depriving funds for the very services mentioned in the petition.

The present Te Mato Vai project is fully budgeted for and doesn't affect those items mentioned.

6. Te Mato Vai project is over-ambitious and over-priced and is being driven by a Minister who has a serious conflict of interest

The current water supply system is broken. There is no point in continuing to maintain a system which is beyond repair; unfortunately the water supply asset has been ignored and not maintained as it should have been for the past 20 to 30 years. Government can now choose not to invest and leave households and business to their own devices or step up and invest in a piece of public infrastructure that will benefit all.

Providing a clean, reliable and efficient water system for Rarotonga when funds are available is prudent. This is a government project not the work of one person, and the talk of a conflict is a cheap shot.

Our society is a relatively small and close-knit one and just as in other similar sized countries or boardrooms around the world, 'potential' conflicts of interest occur every day, and are managed just as this one is.

Costs should not be separated from value, the World Health Organisation states that each \$1 invested in water, returns \$3-\$34 depending on the region and technology. This project is about job creation, increased economic investment and improved public health.

7. The general public has been deceived into believing that the public meeting consultations process is meaningful and potentially influential when in fact most decisions have already been made

The decision has been made to invest in a piece of infrastructure which is of value to the Cook Islands. The public were presented and asked to comment on a proposed system.

Not only were concerns voiced at the consultation meetings listened to, but also changes have been made, where they have been deemed valid, to the master plan; which will be re-published shortly.

8. Laying new Outer and Inner ring mains at considerable cost ignores a proven much cheaper technology known as pipe relining and there is no indication that this option has been researched let alone considered

Relining is a known technology and can be an option to rehabilitate pipes. However it is not a lasting solution that can resolve future pipe bursting or leaking. Relining is a method that lacks durability and cannot be used when there is deterioration of the exterior pipe.

As we know the leakage proportion reaches around 40-70% leakage; we are also aware that the interior is also deteriorating, hence requiring complete replacement.

Relining would also require, completely draining the existing ring main pipe-

line for some time during relining. Meaning, no water during the relining period, for the island. This is why replacement through HDPE pipe is more reliable and also more economical with little risk, and the country will inherit a new robust pipeline for future generations.

9. The Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands has persistently refused to publicly address the question of underground water resources which could possibly meet Rarotonga's needs but at the very least satisfy demand during times of drought

Underground water resources have been the subject of some previous studies that have identified there is some potential to access and utilise groundwater to supplement surface water supplies, predominantly to avoid or provide relief from drought. The Government is currently coordinating work across several programmes (i.e. IWRM, WMI), including Te Mato Vai, to select contractors and consultants to investigate groundwater quantity, quality and viability for use as part of the drinking water supply. The results of those studies will be available by mid-2014 and will feed into the detailed Te Mato Vai planning process.

Effectively, we can get underground water from everywhere we drill around Rarotonga. What is important first is to assess the volume and quality of aquifer basin and analyse the volcanic formation of the island. Some volcanic formations are younger than others and usually the older the rock the more compacted it will be to obtain a good volume of underground water.

This information will be available first from the WAT-SAN study that will soon start. On the other-hand underground water will be costly compared to the current system (gravity system) because a borehole submersible pump is needed to pump water up and will cost for electricity etc. The lower cost approach is to reduce current

demand then consider additional sources.

Underground water is also like savings in the bank for the future. This provides Rarotonga with a means to respond to severe droughts and climate change in the medium term.

10. New pipeworks will not deliver water to homes if there is no water to fill them

Te Mato Vai involves more than just installing new pipes. It replaces an inefficient system, which will provide more water for storage for times of drought; it also offers more reliability and potable water, with all the attendant health and commercial benefits that will follow.

11. Expensive facilities to bring the water supply to potable standards are unwarranted when much of that effort would go to waste and to agriculture, especially when other options exist for delivering potable water to homes and kitchens (village filling station, commercial stand alone plant, domestic U/V subsidised units)

This is a direct example of where the public was consulted on a range of methods to deliver potable water, and as the revised master plan will show, the option taken is to subsidise UV filters at the consumer's end of the system. So people were listened to, not deceived.

We believe it is archaic in a modern country that people have to drive or somehow travel to public filling stations or commercial vendors to get potable water, especially as that impacts on our most vulnerable people and in particular on dependents like children and the elderly.

Another example where we have taken concerns on board is the issue of adding fluoride and disinfection with chlorine. The issue of 'treatment' will be separated from 'disinfection' in the new master plan. This will allow time to continue a dialogue about disinfection, together as a community, and agree in the future how to best to define "appropriate water quality".

How God Meet Our Needs His Way

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many people including Christians have a lot of needs and some of these needs are not being met. We must understand that every promise of God has a condition. In Philippians 4v.19 it reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Many people including Christians want to take this promise of God in v.19 and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. The "promise" is Gods part and the "conditions" are our part. In other words God want us to do certain things before the "promise" applies. In order to understand and appreciate these verses let us look at the "Conditions" in v.14-18.

First, we must be generous to others. Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." When we are generous to others, God will be generous with us. He will bless us! Luke 6v.38, "Give to others, and God will give to you...The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." If we are mean (karapii) then we are blocking the flow of Gods blessings in our lives and our families. The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should be generous:

1) Our Giving Encourages others.

Philippians 4v.14-16 reads "It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you

only, for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need." The Philippian church was not a wealthy church. Yet they were a generous and a giving church. Paul said their gift encouraged him. Giving is an encouragement. Both the giver and the receiver, receives a blessing, an encouragement. The Philippians had a reputation for Generosity. In II Corinthians 8v.24, Paul calls them an example for the rest of the world. They gave out of their poverty. The church had such a reputation for giving, that even more than 2,000 years later (now-a-days) we still talk about the Philippian Church.

2) Our Giving Is An Investment In The Future.

In Philippians 4v.17 Paul said "though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness." Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. Jesus said 100 fold will be returned to him who gives up for the gospel. (Matthew 19v.29; Mark 10v.29-30) In Philippians 4v.17 Paul says "I want you to receive the reward for your giving." GN Bible ". I want to see profit added to your account" We have an account in Heaven. God is recording everything we do. If you don't invest, don't expect a reward! Store up treasure in heaven by giving for the gospel and for those in need! I Timothy 6v.18-19 (LB)

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



"...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it is the only safe investment for eternity!" God's bank never goes bankrupt.

3) Our Giving is a Sacrifice to God

Paul said in v.18 "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Jesus Christ gave sacrificially! for you and I! When you give sacrificially, generously, or even sharing with others, you are becoming more and more like Christ! And it pleases God. Paul said

the gift the Philippians sent him is equivalent to a gift to God. Jesus said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). An act of generosity in our life is seen as a sacrifice to God. That's why Paul said it is important to be a Giver. There are two kinds of people - the Givers! and the Takers! The happy people are the giving people. The condition comes before the promise. You can't claim v.19 unless you're doing v.18. Jesus said, be generous to others and God will be generous with you!

Next week we will look at the Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19. God bless, te Atua te aroa!

It will take another term in the political wilderness before Mark Brown can emerge a true contender for a long stint on the throne. With dwindling grass roots support in his constituency Brown won't get the numbers and his team know it. Brown is now scrounging around for funds to buy votes but his projects in the valley aren't attracting the aid funding even with his mate Mike Henry's paid help. Tourism's Destination fund isn't interested in Brown's bush walking tracks which is more of an employment project for young unemployed male voters who prefer flying pig activities than it is for tourists. What's the bet he tries to get his grubby hands on BTIB's slush funds?



One night last week Mark Brown ventured into neighbour John Henry's Avatiu patch to conduct a meeting on the taxes only to have seven people turn up more for the free food than the political dribble. Even the government paid workers didn't show up like they have to during working hours which they find barely tolerable, but in their own time none of them wants to listen to the political rubbish that flows freely from Brown's mouth?



Looks like neneva Neves has lost his nerve and sense of humour, in the past he has kept a smiling face in the presence of heckling Grey Power members but this week he threatened to walk out if they insulted him, oops, it seems the few days break he had for stress relief didn't quite do the job. For the first time he took along a minder who didn't utter a word.



Nenevanomics is alive and well in the Cook Islands, the dumb CIP rulers had no trouble getting us \$24 million in to debt to give the Avatiu harbour a cosmetic



fix that will bring no return but a \$1.3 million per year loan repayment but are too dumb to withdraw \$23 million from the Super Fund to buy Telecom NZ's shares for a return of \$4 million a year return.



Last week the call me DPM Bulldozer Heta the wannabe PM took the lead as any PM would naturally do and hosted a CIP piri, togetherness gathering to rally the troops before heading off to Parliament this week. Word is they had curried goat. It seems money is not an issue anymore with Heta and with his expected TMV millions could buy the CIP's debts and own the Party out right. Heta can then anoint himself as the leader supreme and hire the pitbull as his media contractor.



Talking about the space cadet DPM, there are now three prominent personalities putting their hand up to unseat Heta at the next general elections. One of them is a former CIP supporter. Let's see how much money Heta will spend to lose the seat.



Oh dear chooks! All is not well out Avana way with a mass of fishing lines and hooks getting tangled in fuss over

how the Jappo funds have been spent in the harbour upgrade! Fingers are jabbing in all directions and the call will soon go out no doubt for some to be held to account.



A slithery PM says the pensioners seized cash will be returned but lo, the treasury wizards have flown in on their broomsticks and cast new spells shape shifting the cash into a tax credit! What does this mean? The High Lordships are broke! The treasury chests are empty! If cash was taken from an account, cash should be returned to that account not held onto by government as a tax credit! By saying the seized money would be returned, was the PM speaking with a forked tongue? What animal on Earth has a forked tongue?



And speaking of the cunning MFEM plan to shape shift stolen money from pensioners into a money laundered tax credit, could the wizards at MFEM explain what happens to the interest these pensioners would have earned had their money remained in the bank? Is MFEM going to calculate the interest that would have been earned and shape shift that into a tax credit? And what if the pensioner dies, what happens to that tax credit? Is it transferred to the

next of kin or paid out?



Here's a tip for all you drivers. Don't park your vehicle right next to a vehicle of the same type and colour as yours. Reason? The other driver may get in your vehicle instead of his/her one. And that has actually happened chooks!



Great one Air NZ says one chook. We can't fill all the seats on the LA flight but we managed to fill more than previously meaning last year we paid Air NZ less to subsidize the flight. So what does Air NZ do? Increase the number of seats of course! We can't fill the plane now so what hope have we of filling the extra 20 per cent of seats in a 777? We will have to dole out more for marketing and probably more to subsidize the flight! Brilliant! A+ on this exam for Air NZ!



Guess who's just been appointed to the Development Coordinating Department of MFEM and been approved to work remotely from Canada for the next 3 months? How so?

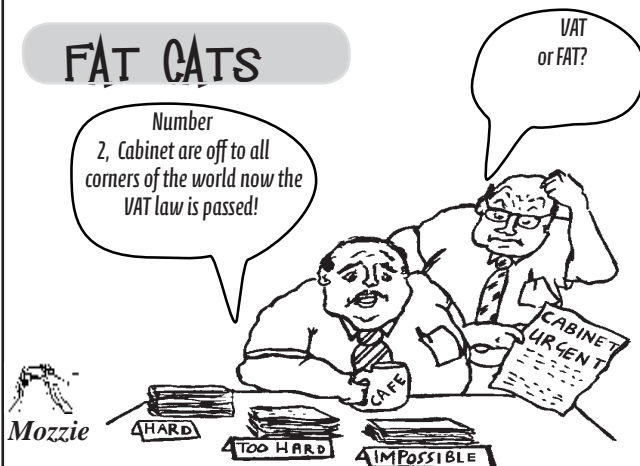


The recent break-in at the world famous doughnut store in Takuvaine was not to flog the fags. That was a diversion. The real reason was to steal the secret doughnut recipe! A hole was cut in the wall large enough for a child to enter. But the kid took the fags not the doughnut recipe!



The PM in his address in the House spoke of the support given to education/schools. Did he look out his office window last Friday and see the Tereora kids selling plates of food to raise money to pay for school items? What a shame!

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Fantasy Odds on who will WIN League Premier FINAL

Team	Date	Date
	Mar 25th	Apri 4th
Eels	\$5	\$7
Bulldogs	\$9	\$7
Panthers	\$9	\$9
Sea Eagles	\$35	\$20
Bears	\$20	\$20
Warriors	\$40	\$40
Sharks	\$40	\$50

The Fantasy Bookie has reacted swiftly and slashed the odds of the winners while lengthen slightly those who lost over the weekend. The Sea Eagles come in on the market, after their historical victory over the Eels who still remain favourites to win the Grand Final. A returning avid League supporter says the Sea Eagles won't make the top 4. Coach Ricky Cowan says....We will see.

The Fantasy Odds column is a hypothetical scenario based on the writers opinion. This is NOT real.

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

Coach Cowan's win over the Eels means another day in charge by himself

IS IT TRUE

The referee's initial problem is still not fixed...If anything its worse

IS IT TRUE

All home teams this weekend are predicted to lose

IS IT TRUE

The Game of the Week replays on Sunday is now the MOST Watched TV programme on CITV

IS IT TRUE

Coach Boogie Pita and his TKV Warriors fancy there chances against any opposing team

IS IT TRUE

Spectator attendance at local games is up by 30% but gate takings only 20%

IS IT TRUE

The Bulldogs club are under the microscope AGAIN for exceeding the IMPORT quota

IS IT TRUE

The number of IMPORTS is now nearly 30 players!!! (7 clubs times 3 imports each =21) ?????



Simple Simon says....

Sea Eagles happy, Ricky Cowan...happier

The upset of the season was played out in Nukupure Park last Saturday in Muri. The Sea Eagles with reserve grade players and last minute recruits put together a performance some are saying worthy of a premier grand final.

The crowds were vocal, supporting there own village team but what soon became apparent was that an upset was in the making. Inside the first 2 minutes an error free period by the Sea Eagles gave them all the field advantage that soon led to a converted try. The changing weather conditions only helped the Sea Eagles as a slippery ball made for wet weather footy saw more Eel errors than normal. It was not that the Eels didn't try hard but quiet games by pivot Bruce Goldsworthy only hampered any free flow and rhythm for the Eels. The straight up running of forwards Mark Charlie, Stanley Tobias and nuggetty Joe Boaza who often pounded the host was meet by determined tackling by Tom Weeks, Willie Kauvai and Jerry Labulare. Regular flare ups and too many sin bins, mostly Eels players, slowed the pace of the game which suited the hosts. Several dangerous tackles or attempted tackles had new referee Tangi Taomi with his hands full. Some confusing referee decision added to the spectacle which was noted by the tv commentary team.

At half time a 10 nil advantage quickly blew out to a 23-0 score line. 2 quick tries in the last 10 mins added some respectability for the Eels but by then it was too late. The brains trust for the Eels camp will review all parts of their game and regroup with the Takuvaine Warriors next to play. While the Sea Eagles and their rugged tagged team, will enjoy a much needed rest having drawn the BYE this week.

So Says Simon ...Simon the Sea Eagle

Scores Last Week Game 9

Sharks **20** Bulldogs **38**
Panthers **32** Warriors **20**
Sea Eagles **23** Eels **10**
BYE – Bears

Draw Wk 10 Fri April 4th

Panthers v Sharks,
Victoria Pak, 5pm
Sat 5th April
Warriors v Eels,
Happy Valley, 4.30pm
Bears v Bulldogs,
Raemaru Pk, New Time 3pm
BYE – Sea Eagles

Freak storm wreaks havoc, delays flight



Week 10 *Who they picked!*

Mr "X" – Panthers, Warriors, Bears
Dawn Crummer – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Frankie Zumba Queen – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Fungs Takeaway – Panthers, Warriors Bears
Ake Tangapiri – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Henry Hoff – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Hoff # 2 – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Antonia Poa – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Julz of ANZ – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Rehab Jane – Bulldogs ALL DAY
Lydia the Barwoman – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
Paul van Eijk – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Nana McKinley – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Rob Matapo – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Salsa' Chef Terry – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Sean Willis – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Raro Shacks Colin – Sharks, Eels, Bears
Rangi Luke – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Ty Connell – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Pare Kavero – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Andy Kapi – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Tv's Temo – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Naked Chef – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Nga Puna – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
Jeff the Ref – Panthers, Eels, Bears
10cent Aussie – Sharks, Eels, Bears
Willie Kauvai jnr – Sharks, Eels, Bears
Tua Man – Panther, Eels, Bulldogs
Matutu Maker – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Sarah T – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Rob Heather – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Wayne Robati – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Maxine DBM – Panthers, Warriors, Bears
Pitt Bull – Panthers, Eels, Bears
Henry Tupa – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Rima Moeaka – Sharks, Warriors, Bears
Moari Allsworth – Panthers, Warriors, Bears
Fred of G&S – Panthers, Eels, Bulldogs
Lawless – Sharks, Warriors, Bears
Boogies Heros's - Panthers, Warriors, Bears

PRIZE - FREE t-shirt, Karaoke hire & Meat pack for person who correctly picks 3 winners from this weeks draw. Conditions apply - If more than 1 winner – draw 1 from a hat.

How to Enter – Txt your picks for next weeks games to Matman · PH 55 921 before Tue 4pm



A low pressure to the south west of the Southern Cooks and band of cloud was the cause of Sunday mornings freak weather that resulted in several trees being toppled around the island including this one at Arai Te Tonga where MP for Tupapa Maraerenga George Action Man Maggie was working alongside the boys from Infrastructure Cook Islands. According to Maggie he started in the early hours first cutting a kuru tree that fell on the main road just near his home. While the damage around the island was not severe, one Matavera resident did lose her garage shed, and the Air New Zealand flight due in that morning had to circle the island for 2 hours, making several attempts to land before having to divert to Papeete to refuel. NZ18 was almost 6 hours late departing for LA.

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.

