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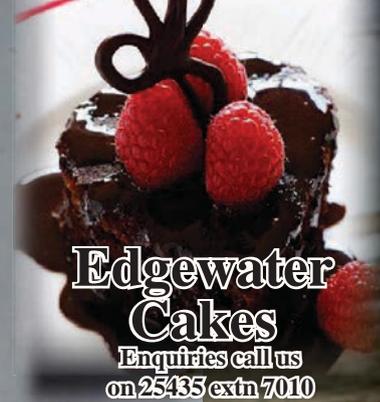
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Reconstruction of roads no mystery

All fingers point to DPM Teariki Heather

The \$2.9 million water pipe replacement called Project City is becoming a distant memory, but after more than one year the resealing of the road damaged by the project, from the Aquarius Hotel to upper Tupapa is becoming a nightmare for motor cyclists and cyclists. In our most dense residential and business sector there lies the islands most treacherous roading.

An enquiry as to why there is a hold up to the reconstruction and asphalt of the project roading has turned up information the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather has had a direct hand in the stalling of the tendering process. As promised the CIP government allocated \$6 million for the work. MFEM and Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) staff can verify the money is available and MFEM are concerned by the lack of activity and have encouraged the work to begin.

Some months ago prior to the advertised Tender date closing, the plug was pulled by ICI Engineer Tenga Mana who was overseeing the process and the work being tendered. Mana informed bidders he was acting under instructions from ICI Minister Teariki Heather who allegedly wanted the specifications coached to favour his company T&M Heather Ltd.

The original tender document called for set standards of the supply of materials and construction procedures that were not in the capability of T&M Heather Ltd who are unable to crush the aggregate as per the tender, nor do they have the machinery specific to the sealing outcome required.

Under instructions from Minister Heather the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) as it was called before being renamed ICI gave a contract to crush sealing chip and base course to T&M Heather Ltd which bore no relationship to what was needed to do the roads in down town Avarua. Neither of the other two aggregate suppliers

was considered for this contract worth hundreds of thousands of dollars blatantly flouting of MFEM rules of transparency and contestability, in addition to that Heather's company was advanced a significant payment prior to any material being crushed, thus giving him the resources to purchase equipment specific to the requirements of the multimillion dollar Te Mato Vai project.

Prior to this, when sacked MOIP secretary Donny Numa was in the hot seat Minister Heather was under a tighter leash but he still managed to have moneys paid secretly directly into T&M Heather's account instead of the nominated lawyer's trust account as was the arrangement. Once the Financial Secretary Neves became aware of Heather's inappropriate transfer of funds, Neves retrieved the funds so as to ensure no further abuse of public monies took place.

The corruption intolerant former New Zealand High Commissioner John Carter instigated an independent audit of MOIP by KPMG Chartered Accountants. Despite the damaging findings and serious breaches there was no further action taken by any of the regulatory watch dogs or Cabinet. Concerns were raised by some readers of the CI Herald, who published sections of the Audit Report, but as usual with issues involving the DPM, heads were buried in the sand and the embarrassing findings were swept under the carpet by the CIP government.

Not long after Numa was sacked for as the scapegoat of the mess MOIP had become, the self enriching DPM Heather began vindictively throwing his political bulk around black listing any contractor who dared challenge his man handling of the Ministry.

At a meeting called by MOIP's Mac Mokoroa the five people in attendance weren't surprised to hear Mokoroa state Minister Heather was not going to allow Triad to participate with T&M

Heather Ltd on any further projects.

Mokoroa was unaware this was due to Chris Vaile raising concerns over attempts by T&M Heather Ltd to double charge for cement plus cement disappearing from the road construction between Aquarius and the end of Nikao. One contractor claimed the issues Triad raised at the time got hushed up internally. Vaile stated there was a lot of correspondence between himself and Neves that raised the perceived underhand activities during the road reconstruction.

Vaile claims further comments will only serve to jeopardise any chances of Triad receiving or participating in further roading contracts. Other contractors continue to refrain from speaking to the media except in whispers of discontent and strict confidentiality to avoid the wrath of Minister Heather's passive victimisation. With his competitive contractors all marginally surviving and anticipating crumbs from TMV, Heather has an iron clad fist on who gets what.

Despite T&M Heather Ltd being a material supplier they are pursuing all the contract components to become positioned in the powerful seat of sharing the good fortune with other selected contractors for a slice of their cake.

More than a year later, the self serving manipulator Minister Heather's failure for personal ambitions to start the Avarua road reconstruction may just become a blessing in disguise. A CIP loss at the polls, better still CIP Teariki Heather's loss to Norooa Baker will be a huge sigh of relief to the public who are sick of his blatant conflicts of interest and bully boy tactics to all those who dare to stand up to him. The biggest relief will be by the new leader of the CIP after July 9 who will not have to tolerate Heather's political back stabbing and greedy lust for the Prime Ministership. - George Pitt



DPM Teariki Heather

Extract from NZ Herald

Friday 9 May 2014

Media have a right to investigate corruption

by Mai Chen

The Cabinet Manual requires ministers to ensure no conflict exists or appears to exist between their personal interests and their public duty; ministers must conduct themselves at all times in the knowledge that their role is a public one. Appearances and propriety can be as important as an actual conflict of interest and ministers should avoid situations in which they, or those close to them, gain remuneration or other advantage from information acquired only by reason of their office.

Being a minister or an MP is never for the faint hearted. It involves living in a goldfish bowl and behaving with a wide margin of caution. For the standard is not just what is required by law, but how your behaviour would be perceived by the voters.

Financial quarterly report meaningless to average citizen

By Charles Pitt

Government's latest financial report is out but to the average person it is meaningless because they cannot make the connection between the report and the daily struggle they have to cope with the cost of living, to make ends meet, to explain why a person must have two or three other sources of income and why society is in the state it is in.

The financial report for the March 2014 quarter was released last week and anyone can download a copy off MFEM's website if they wish. However, not all ordinary people have access to a computer.

Media reports have already pointed to a drop in operations expenditure although both operations revenue and expenditure were below forecasts. The overall fiscal picture is one of a \$1.6 million deficit.

But what does this all mean for the average Joe in the street? Is this report good or bad? How will the average citizen be affected? Will things improve or get worse? The bottom line is, what use is this report to the average citizen? Is the report a true reflection of what is happening in society?

I have criticized governments previously for not producing a balanced report given the media is expected to produce balanced accounts of events.

Unless the average citizen actually understands what the financial report means to him or her personally, such reports will continue to be irrelevant.

Balanced reporting by government means reporting on the state of "society" as well as the state of the country's "finances."

Financial reports should be accompanied by reports that indicate such social issues as; the average amount of disposable household income, the cost of living, the rate of unemployment, availability of jobs in the various sectors, progress with gender issues and other items such as the number of destitute persons.

In recent years government

has become far too focused on finances and has not devoted sufficient time to improving the quality of life. There are households that are receiving food parcels, households where the parents have to work at several jobs just to make ends meet, households where some kids are going hungry. Government can see that the population is aging but is not doing anything to prepare homes for the care of the elderly. Many elderly are fending for themselves. Mental health services are virtually non-existent.

With around 30 per cent of the budget made up of foreign funding, government has become pre-occupied with bowing and scraping to overseas donors to the extent that government has created an empire within MFEM just to handle foreign aid.

The bureaucracy and paperwork tied up in foreign aid is horrendous and needs to be slashed. In fact the whole division within MFEM handling foreign aid needs looking at.

Unless government comes up with a way to show the degree to which the state of the finances impact on the state of society, government's financial reports will continue to be received with some skepticism.

Below is the government release regarding the report.

Quarterly Financial Update for March 2014

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management has now released the Quarterly Financial Update for March 2014. The net operating balance of the General Government Sector as at 31 March 2014 was a surplus of \$3.4 million.

- Operating revenue was \$87.0 million; and
- Operating expenditure was \$83.6 million.

The overall fiscal balance

which excludes depreciation, but includes capital expenditure was a deficit of \$1.6 million.

General Government sector revenue as at 31 March 2014 was lower than the original budget estimate (YTD) by \$4.4 million or 5 per cent, mainly because of the reduction of income taxes on 1 January, slightly offset by the increase in the rate of VAT to 15%.

General Government Sector expenditure as at 31 March 2014 was lower than the original budget estimate (YTD) by \$6.8 million or 8 per cent, mainly because of lower than expected spending on the Los Angeles and Sydney underwrite, savings in personnel due to vacancies and lower than anticipated levels of depreciation.

In the State Owned Enterprise Sector trading revenue was 7 per cent above budget (1.9 million) and operating expenditure on budget. Revenue increases were mainly attributable to Te Aponga Uira which reported increased energy consumption for the quarter and the Airport Authority which reported extra flights.

The Crown's gross borrowing for the March 2014 quarter was \$98.6 million, an increase of \$13 million from the December 2013 quarter. This increase was mainly attributable to the uptake of the loan associated with Te Mato Vai.

General government cash reserves at the March 2014 quarter were \$18.3 million, a decrease of \$1 million from the Dec 2013 quarter.



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Democratic Party will have to live with TOAGATE stigma

While one of the speech makers at last Thursday night's Democratic Party campaign launch was very specific in their comments about TOAGATE, before an audience of about 350 people and on the live Radio Cook Islands broadcast he stated to the effect, "the new Demo government would pass legislation to terminate the existing contractual agreement with Toa Petroleum Ltd," the publicised policy summary of 16 pages called 'Pathway to Prosperity' stated on page six "We will consider legislation to deal with TOAGATE".

The assertive Democratic political up talk on TOAGATE may be meaningless to the outer islands residents but, to Rarotonga voters it has an element of polling traction. The hard line rhetoric that they have the political will to introduce new legislation to end the most scandalous financial transaction by a recent government has many in the legal know whispering the Democratic political barking has no constitutional bite and a wasted energy of tail wagging.

A critic of the Democratic Party TOAGATE outcome is suggesting any attempts by them to severe themselves from the political loss of face and stain on the Party by legislative absolutism is best buried as deep as possible.

To create abortive legislation after two Court rulings challenging the legitimacy of Government's contract have been delivered in favour of Toa Petroleum is high risk and internationally unhelpful. Any further efforts to enable the government to wriggle free of further payments to Toa Petroleum will not go unchallenged by Toa, the Government could well end up wasting more public funds. If a precedent is set, international lending institutions risk legislative means to extract the Cook Islands from defaulting conditions of a



The former TOA Petroleum tank farm in Panama next to CITC Supermarket.

bonding agreement.

The reality is, TOAGATE is an embarrassing legacy of the Demo's financial ineptness and poor negotiating skills that is irreparable and politically tamper proof. This millstone will continue to weigh down their credibility and integrity that won't be compromised by an instant fine. Voters may forgive the infallibility of man but forgetfulness is a process to be endured, thus the Democratic Party's linger in the political wilderness may not be granted a release date on July 9.

On a live political Radio Cook Islands broadcast last Friday, CIP candidate for Takuvaine Mark Brown pulled no punches as he chastised the DP for the TOAGATE catastrophe and the continuing consequences, Brown finger pointing co-offender Wilkie Rasmussen took no prisoners in his bombardment of condemnation and criticism of the disastrous waste of public funds for no investor return because of the DP stupidity.

Brown prompted the listeners to reject the DP claims they

were ready to govern, after such a short time they expected the voters to return them to government to run the country's finances, they cannot be trusted so quickly reminded Brown. "The Demos need to sit on the sidelines till they learn how to be wise with managing the people's money. When the CIP spend \$1.5 million a year everyone can see the result, but with the Demos and their TOAGATE there is nothing, absolutely nothing."

"TOAGATE is a huge problem the brain exploding Democratic Party created then they expected us to fix it. Wilkie knows it can't be fixed and he knows the consequences of attempts to legitimise an out mechanism," claimed Brown. "The idiocy of the Demos is they are caught in the fantasy their high ground waffle will convince the voters to reward them to fix an irreparable \$15 million public burden they themselves created."

Brown is adamant legal advice concerning reneging on Government's agreement with Toa Petroleum is not an option to

consider, it's legally tamper proof. "So much is in favour of Toa if the agreement is abandoned by Government, Wilkie knows what the outcome will be, but for some reason he hasn't seemed to relay those consequences to his Party caucus."

"Whether there is an attempt to amend a law or create a new one, Toa will not be the worse off," said Brown, "Government has paid out \$10 million so far and because this agreement was entered into by good faith any breaches can result in Toa claiming full payment plus any legal costs to that effect".

"There is a price to pay for stupidity and a sin that lingers for more than one generation, the whole Country has suffered and will continue to suffer for another four years, \$1.5 million a year for nothing in return out of our small economy is reprehensible", said Brown.

"The Demos can talk TOAGATE all they like; they can carry on barking to the moon, because that's all it is, wasted words of false hope and Wilkie knows it," concluded Brown. - George Pitt



The Tavioni Stall at the BTIB Trade Day and Night Market opposite the Banana Court on Wednesday.
More photos on 16 and 17

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Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage girl this week is 18 year old Tehina Tommy. Tehina completed schooling in Sydney and is now working here in Rarotonga at Cook Islands Trust. She's only here for two years (gap year) before making her way to University. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

The Nenevanomic Ballad of Tax Fax

BACK, VAT, Departure, Super....TAX
Water, Landowners, Withholding, Cigarette, Alcohol.....TAX
We are full of at TAX on our locals, GO Local,
Laws....AX Honesty and the TRUTH, Conflict of InterestSlips
thru the CRAX
Who pays TAX? CONSULTANTS, MPs?
GROW the ECONOMY thru TAX, VOTE for MORE TAX... sorry,
done deal!
VOTE CIP.....We love to TAX care of you all.
MILLIONS here MILLIONS there who will pay for it all?
Our TAX on speaks louder than our words!
STATE the FAX in March Mr Brown states;
\$4.7m Surplus and \$40m DEBT.
In APRIL here are the FAX;
\$1.5 million Deficit and over \$100 million DEBT?
TAX you TAX you very much! YOUR LEADER? ELVIS?
VOTE CIP.....We love to TAX care of you all.
The FAX; Over \$100 million borrowings?
Landowners pay TAX, Water Pay TAX, Pensioners Pay TAX
Nenevanomics, in Maori.....MORE TAX INE! Tano taau e te
Minita!
Over \$60 million TMV means TAX My Vai?
In time all the TAX will be revealed.
VOTE BULLY dozer and Conflict of Interest? TAX
No more at-TAX on the Christian Boy.
VOTE CIP...We love to TAX care of you all.
Clever 'Dickie' Hmmm and I've been thinking like POLICED
state.
the evidence is sTAXed in my favor!
The 'TAX' inator. I'll be BACK...TAX!
The 'TAX' Man. It's all about the 'TAX'
Don't make things up just state the 'TAX'
'TAX' like a butterfly and sting like a 'Neves'.
TAX express, don't 'Neves' home without it!
We TAX the little people cause it ain't fair on the Politicians,
Consultants and these so called Experts. To make it fair we
should TAX the pensioners.
If you die people, don't blame Heart A-TAX! We will make sure
to add your 'DEPARTURE TAX' to heaven!
TAX a million! CIP TAX care of you all.



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Aid dependent economy evolves the demographic landscape

Global empire expansion and building by military might is long gone with economic colonialism more cost effective and gradually, thus less discerning with minimal indigenous resistance. Big brother relationships based on sovereign friendships that lead to reliance then dependence are more likely to choke a recipient of funding assistance into an economic sleeper hold of submission.

Without New Zealand's paternal funding handouts of up to \$25 million each year the Cook Islands will suffer internal haemorrhaging and a tourniquet economy. Up to one third of the annual budget is comprised of foreign aid. Compared with our Pacific neighbours, per capita the Cook Islands at US\$3,300 (NZ \$4,000) are well ahead in the quotient of external dependency.

On a per capita basis, Fiji receives US\$87, Vanuatu US\$506, Samoa US\$527, Solomon Islands US\$612 and Tonga US\$909. In recent years, annual remittances from overseas residents because of globalisation and increased migration of workers and professionals have dwarfed the importance of foreign aid to Fiji. Samoa's economy has an injection of US\$139 million of remittances in the last financial year.

With the increasing dependence on foreign loans and aid funding, comes an evolution of the demographic landscape. Ethnically the Cook Islands is not the same Cook Islands it was ten years ago and if left unattended will not be the Cook Islands of the present. A multicultural mix of imported Asians, Melanesians and Polynesians workers have tended to fudge the faster growing mix of Europeans that largely blend in under the radar of noticeability.

Intermarriages between Cook Islanders and non Polynesians are occurring at an increasing rate. Many of the imports are single males introducing their non Polynesian genes into the melting pot of racial mix. It is only a matter of time before gradualism

threatens the Cook Islands way of life. With the ethnic diversity comes the indifferent intrusive cultural and religious packages that challenges the very core of what makes who we are.

It is time to become decisively proactive and assertive about the preservation of our cultural and religious conventions. For the last 15 years every Government has done little to address the depopulation of our Polynesian heritage apart from give it lip service.

With little help and direction from the Politicians the under resourced Immigration Division attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has suffered abuse and criticism of the harshest kind concerning foreign

The Democratic Party's 'Pathway to Prosperity' document is a 16 page summary of a nearly completed cost factored 48 page comprehensive policy directive that includes a depopulation and more important a repopulation plan for indigenous Cook Islanders.

imports and immigration matters. The Cook Islands Party is noticeably evasive on the nation's most pressing problem; no mention of an Immigration policy indicates the continued dismissive ostrich mentality that dominates the CIP leadership.

The Democratic Party's 'Pathway to Prosperity' document is a 16 page summary of a nearly completed cost factored 48 page comprehensive policy directive that includes a depopulation and more important a repopulation plan for indigenous Cook Islanders.

The challenge facing the DP if they ascend to governance, is will the parliamentary arm embrace and materialise the hard working efforts of their dedicated policy committee who did not include any sitting MP for most of its 18

months of deliberations. In the past, MPs from either Party have been notorious for becoming distant from the non elected Party influences once in power.

If government changes, the new governors in turn face the battle of wills as they seek to inject their policy directives into the bureaucratic mind set of the public service who are experts at resisting change.

Will a new government face up to the glaring facts of unattended issues and begin to underwrite a road map to address our population challenges before we are submerged in another conflict dilemma with pressure from our aid donors who demand access for their nationals?

Will a government emerge from the political frolicking brave enough to command parity with New Zealand and Australia? The push and pull factors must be put into the context of NZ and not as a comparative to other Pacific Island countries who are fully independent with their own currencies. Everything about our commercial sector is in the NZ context except the rewards for the exchange of labour.

With tourism and foreign ownership dominating the economy, international prices are being charged even at the Punanga Market but are we delivering an international service when the work force is bound to disproportionate compensations?

Many in the public service have salaries and perks relative to NZ

levels and it is time there emerges the political will to raise the minimum wage to claw back the monetary cream that is banked in overseas institutions at the expense of the lowly paid foreign workers who are taken advantage of by in large the expat business owners.

The CIP by way of a Conference remit are now committing to up their \$6 per hour to a minimum wage of \$10 per hour. The DP are advocating they will improve the CIP \$6 by an extra \$1 to a minimum wage of \$7 per hour which is in practise is the norm for most locally owned businesses except the expat owned tourist accommodators who prefer the lower paid imported worker.

Without the 1,000 plus foreign workers now employed, many tourism businesses plus retailers would collapse. To increase the minimum wage would squeeze the profit margins of those now dependent on imported workers. Waiting in the wings for the new administration is the challenge to manage a possible disruption in tourism when the lid is lifted off the presently contained but simmering complaints and demands are aired when a Union for Foreign Workers is registered.

The Fijians, Filipinos and Samoans all have established communities who regularly congregate and interact. Once intimidated by being a minority in a strange land they have grown in confidence realising they are now an indispensable and integral presence in the economic matrix. With this mindset they want better work conditions and remuneration for their labour and skills plus representation for employment grievances.

With the Cook Islands becoming increasingly committed to United Nations Conventions including those relative to refugees, is it opportunist to consider selective cherry picking from the professional skill based Christian pool of asylum seekers out of the thousands Australia is wanting placements for? - George Pitt

Takuvaine CIP BBQ fundraiser

Photos by Te Riu Woonton



Letter to the Editor

Netball team selection

Dear Editor
It is two days before the World Series Qualifying Tournament in Rarotonga, a week into the Cook Islands Netball training camp and after a long day of training and fitness, lunch is shared and then a meeting is called where two girls are dismissed from the Cook Islands playing squad. Two girls who have been in the starting team for the past two series, two girls who were two from the three and only players to pass the fitness testing, and the two and only experienced Wing Defence players in the entire squad. You can imagine the absolute devastation on the girls' faces after spending weeks/months mentally and physically preparing to represent their country internationally in Netball.

I am writing this to inform the wider Cook Island people and all those who love and support a great sport, exposing the politics involved in the Netball Cook Islands Organisation from management and coaching staff. The treatment my sister Tatiana Hirovanaa has received from management and coaching is beyond unprofessional and absolutely appalling for what is meant to be a "professional" institution.

The requirements for selection into the playing team for each player were; follow a strict nutritional regime, conduct your own training daily to maintain fitness levels as well as attend training camps and organised sessions as a team, and demonstrate skill and maturity at an international level in the game.

So how it is that players whom remain in the squad were exempt from meeting this criteria, whilst two key players were dismissed without valid reason and despite exceeding the criteria given? Most of the girls who remain are considered unfit with only one remaining player passing the fitness test, and also new girls have been included in the team last minute despite not attending the training camps or even having played a single game with the squad. Would you expect to

see this happen in New Zealand or Australian selections for an international netball squad? NO, so why do we see it here?

No politics in Raro you say? How is it that Cecile Marten (Manager), with major conflict of personal interest can select not one, but two of her daughters into the squad, both having never played at rep level previously, over players who have played Netball at the highest level? Never at a professional or international level would you see a mother of team players manage an International Netball Squad. In an attempt by a family member to get answers from Cecile via txt, an appalling response to questioning 'why Tatiana had been dropped?' Cecile replied "does it matter?" This is a true depiction of the unethical nature of management behaviour.

Family choose family and locals also choose locals. You see, Tatiana is not a local by residence, but only by heart being a NZ born Cook Islander. She never felt she had the same acceptance as the local girls from executive level, thus the very reason many overseas Cook Islanders will never think twice about playing for their country due to the "small island mentality and politics."

What is most disheartening and exasperating is that someone such as Tatiana Hirovanaa can acquire ten years of playing netball at rep level, captaining top sides and being selected into high performance academy's in New Zealand, where she evidently developed not only skill and maturity in the game, but immense respect, love and passion for it, only to be dropped days before the tournament over a quick 3 minute talk with her coach and manager with no valid reason given, leaving many sceptical and shocked as her performance reflects only a surpassing of the requirements given for her to attain.

This frustration I am expressing is not from a disgruntled family member who is upset with a bias opinion of Tatiana's placement in the team, this is a plea for

valid answers and justice for our own sportswomen. If we as the Cook Islands want to exceed and excel in the sports world and be taken seriously, we need to think hard about the choices we make in selecting the best talent we have, which can only be achieved by choosing flair over family and skill over self-glorification and selfish ambition. It needs to be a case of "what we know, not who we know."

We have already received so much support regarding this issue and these are some of the responses we have received from the public;

"It's horrendous especially when it comes to Pacific island rep teams. The issue lies in the conflict of interest when even appointing a mother of a player as coach/manager."

"I have lived in the Cooks all my life and have always been saddened by the attitude that our people at home has that they

are better than players overseas, players who have gone through the NZ and OZY system."

"We live in a world where it's about who you know as opposed to skill and rock solid documented experience."

It is this small, egotistical and conceited way of thinking we have here in the Islands that will continue to see us at the bottom of the table when we come up against larger nations, disregarding the true and wonderful talent our people possess, home or away. I implore you all to aspire to support and stand up for the future and health of our professional sports and recognise that unless change occurs starting from the very top, we will not move forward and we will not taste the success achievable without possessing impartiality and a regenerated professionalism.

*Kayla-Maria Hirovanaa,
Henderson, Auckland, NZ*

Netball Cook Islands response

In response to emails and reports concerning the make-up of the 12 member squad of the Cook Islands Black Pearls, the board of Netball Cook Islands responds as follows.

The PNS rules require no more than a squad of 12 members. This means 2 players have been omitted from the 14 strong wider Cook Islands Black Pearls squad. The coach as selector has chosen to go with the 12 named because she believes that they are the best team to represent the Cook Islands at this time.

NCI President Patsy Hockin said today "I can give an assurance there has been no personality or prejudicial issues involved in the selection process. The two players who have been omitted from the squad at this time are still well within the frame for future Cook Islands selection."

It's D-day today, the most exciting day to date of all their hard training, commitment and determination to qualify. Mental toughness is but one more aspect to this training which they have covered but the last couple of days have been the biggest test - for both players and management. We, the Board, have worked closely with Trish. We have every faith and understanding of the scenarios she has tested continuously over the last 5 months to choose the best "Team" as opposed to "Players".

Remember, we are not individuals in this game, everyone counts as a Team Player in the Black Pearls - including families and supporters. It's time to get behind our promising young Cook Islands Black Pearls. I am proud of them, all 14 and their Management, for they have dedicated so much time and effort in a bid to make their country proud this week - meitaki maata.

The 12 member squad is: Alanna Smith, Ashleigh Iro, Marjorie Toru, Margaret Nena, Mei-Ling Refiti, Claresta Andrew, Eri-Ta-Ana Short, Jasmin Forbes-James, Natalia Short, Rosa-Maria Kauvai, Lenae Tiaiti, Luciana Matenga.

To Trish and the girls, we are behind you 100% and wish you every success this coming week - go get'em!

*Patsy Hockin
President, Netball Cook Islands*

Mama Piripo Elisaia recognised for services to the Pacific community in Queens Birthday Honours

77 year-old Pacific Homecare co-founder Piripo Elisaia received a Queens Service Medal over the weekend, for services to the Pacific community in the 2014 Queens Birthday Honours

Piripo Elisaia (commonly known as Mama Pi) helped found Pacific Homecare in the 1980s after she was approached by her cousin and friend Matarena George. Matarena was asked by a local councillor to put forward an application to Government to run a homecare centre for Pacific people in Otara.

Amid competition for the contract from other Pacific organisations, they won the contract and Kuki Airani Aronga Pakari Trust was founded, changing its name to the Pacific Island Homecare Services Trust in 1995 before its recent name change.

Initially raising funds by making and selling tivaivai (Cook Island bedspreads), the group grew as they responded to the demand of the diverse Pacific cultures, elderly and disabled in the Counties Manukau region.

Pacific Homecare Chief Executive Hamish Crooks says everyone at the organisation is very proud of Mama Pi, who has worked tirelessly in the South

Auckland Pacific community for the past 25 years. "It is a very special moment for her, her family and all of us ... Mama Pi is very humble, hardworking, and a quiet but assertive servant leader," he says.

"Along with the late Mama Matalena George, Mama Pi started Pacific Homecare to serve Pacific elderly people with health needs and then to go onwards to serve Pacific people who required disability support services.

"She has not only served these communities but also her Cook Islands community through her leadership in her church, the Pukapuka community as well as in earlier years as a member of the PACIFICA women's organisation."

Mama Pi is still highly visible in the community, supporting her church, the Pukapuka and Cook Islands community and the Pacific Homecare Fia Ola drop-in centre for Pacific elderly.

"There is no doubt that Mama's faith and belief in God



Mama Piripo Elisaia

and in serving other people is a true testament to her love for others that is unconditional," says Hamish. "She's an example for others in our sector and communities to follow."

Minister supports applicants for special training

On Thursday 29 May 2014, Minister for Minerals and Natural Resources, the Honourable Mark Brown met with 2 Cook Islands engineers, Paiorua Ngarua (ICI) and Eusenio Fatialofa (CIIC), who are applying for At Sea training under the International Seabed Authority or ISA's Training program.

The Minister discussed with them of the Government's developmental goals for and potential benefits of our national Seabed Minerals sector and the ISA and its different functions.

Minister Brown offered them his Ministerial support and encouragement in their pursuit of further education and training aimed at our new Seabed Minerals sector.

Obtaining international Seabed Minerals training is invaluable for the Cook Islands, so that should Seabed Minerals exploration



From left to right-Paiorua Ngarua (ICI), Minister Brown and Eusenio Fatialofa (CIIC), with their completed ISA Applications.

activities commence here in the next year, then qualified Cook Islanders will be ensured high level training and employment opportunities, because they will then have necessary technical knowledge and experience in that specialised machinery, processes and sector.

Capacity building of Cook

Islanders in all aspects of the seabed minerals sector will assist our nation to understand and effectively manage the valuable seabed minerals resources, under our jurisdiction and control, for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the Cook Islands.

The Minister also signed off

on the related Letter of Support and Nominations for these 2 Applications to the ISA.

Applications to the ISA close on 13 June 2014, so any other qualified people who are interested can contact the Seabed Minerals Authority on 29193 for more details.

- Paul Lynch

Atua Sacred Gods from Polynesia Exhibition - A Major International Exhibition of Polynesian Traditional Cultural Artefacts

On arriving into Canberra, one didn't quite know what to expect, being the first time to attend a VIP official opening of a Major International Art exhibition hosted by the National Gallery of Australia. The invitation to attend this prestigious event came as a result of contributing two years of research and development, namely providing information on the cultural context in which these works may have been created. Of course many of the questions raised remain unanswered.

Arriving three days prior to the opening we were fortunate to be part of the exhibition set-up which was in its final stages. The last of the Hawaiian objects were being carefully placed on their plinths, the final display of 18th century lithographic prints were being hung, and lastly, most importantly the lighting was being installed.

So what makes this exhibition important? 76 traditional art objects are currently on loan from 28 overseas museum institutions and private collections, many of which have never been exhibited before. A major lender to the exhibition is the British Museum (mostly Cook Islands pieces), followed by the Vatican Ethnological Museum, the Kunstkamera in St Petersburg, the Munich Museum in Germany, and private collections such as the Menil and David Attenborough collections.

Essentially, the exhibition navigates the concept of "atua", the meaning it held during pre-Christian times and what it means to Polynesians today. The objects on display have been described as physical manifestations of vessels that was once believed to contain or represent "atua". The exhibition seeks to identify what types of atua were revered, or worshipped, to whom did they belong and what did they mean? Cultural practices and structures such as navigation and the traditional marae have been documented, and noted as playing a significant role in the religious belief system at the time.

In an interview, for an upcoming short documentary, Nicole Bridges, African American Associate Curator of the St. Louis Museum posed some of these questions. Some of the more controversial ones were do Cook Islanders acknowledge these objects today and do they still associate them with ancestral gods or spirits? Her response was interesting when explaining to her that these objects are not acknowledged and that "atua" is not defined as "many gods" but "one". To add, we do not place the same kind of value on these objects as they do in the Western world. Indicative of the value placed on these objects is the cost of the Atua exhibition which is around the \$3m mark.



The highlights of the exhibition was first and foremost the Cook Islands collection on loan from the British Museum and Adelaide Menil private collection. Nine objects are on display from Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mitiaro and Mangaia. In first encountering these pieces it was unbelievable to think that these were the original works which I had only viewed in photographs. The intricately carved detail of the Rarotongan and Mitiaro staffs were most impressive. In addition to the Cook Islands collection are the pieces from Rurutu which are similarly outstanding featuring fine craftsmanship and an abstract unconventional approach to the carved form.

Also part of the exhibition is a collection of fine lithographic drawings by artists Sydney Parkinson, William Hodges and John Webber. These were illustrated in 1768, 1772 and 1779 on Captain Cooks first, second and third voyages of the South Seas.



Prior to the official opening was the “blessing ceremony” where guests and exhibition pieces were welcomed by the Aboriginal landowners. The delegation was lead from the NGA main entrance to the exhibition space and through the exhibits to where the official speeches took place. Speaking on behalf of the Cook Islands was Eruera Nia who acknowledged and thanked the landowners for welcoming us onto their land. From Aotearoa was kaumatua Graeme Anderson who assisted in the development of the exhibition and represented the Polynesian delegation.

The opening attracted a turnout of around 200 invited guests, followed by a VIP Official Dinner. A brilliantly inspiring opening speech was delivered by artist George Nuku, alongside NGA Director, Ron Radford who thanked all of those who were involved.

The exhibition runs from the 23rd May - 3rd August 2014. It then travels to the St. Louis Art Museum, USA. It is accompanied with an impressive 250 page full colour catalogue featuring stunning photographs and detailed accounts of the objects and the traditional system that governed the Polynesian people prior to the arrival of Christianity.

I wish to thank NGA Director Ron Radford and Senior Pacific Curator Michael Gunn for granting the opportunity to be part of this magnificent event.

By Mahiriki Tangaroa

Maleficent!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hey guys! I hope that you all had a wonderful long weekend (personally, I didn't think it was long enough) and ready to face school with a positive, cheery attitude (Bleh! Who am I kidding?) Before I get into it, I'm gonna ask this one question: Have you guys seen Maleficent? It's that one with Angelina Jolie and Dakota Fanning's little sister, Elle. A couple of friends and I went to watch it last Friday night in support of the Ngakoa Toa fundraising (Hmm, not entirely true. I just had this urge to watch the movie) Because it had Angelina Jolie in it, I had high expectations of the movie. And I have to say that I wasn't disappointed (totes worth my \$10)

Maleficent is a spin-off on the classical tale Sleeping Beauty (You know. The musical one where Aurora meets this fella for like, half an hour and then she falls in love) told in the perspective of the evil, dragon-witch, Maleficent. I had booked my movie ticket two weeks in advance just to claim a seat in the cinema (But, knowing me, I wouldn't pay up until the very last minute) Seeing the posters at the Empire Theatre really intrigued me to go.

On the night, I had to figure out how and when I was going to get there. With this stupid petrol shortage (which is setting back everybody's lives) I didn't want to drive my bike. I called around to see if anybody was willing to give me a ride to the Empire Theatre, but they were conserving petrol as well. Looks like I was gonna have to be a boss and drive there myself. One friend bailed out on me at the last minute (not mentioning any names, but you know who you are lol) and so I thought that I'd be rocking it O.T.L.

But I always have other friends that I can rely on. Nga and Justin were there, so I was saved from the embarrassment



of being a third wheel. I bought a brownie at the Ngakau Toa stall (Fantabulous stuff, guys! Whoever did the baking is amazeballs) and settled on the seats inside. There were more people at the movies than I anticipated so it was all squashed. As soon as the 6 o'clock session ended, people bolted up and gapped it to the stairs.

I was surrounded by friends, food and a surround sound. It was going to be a good time. The previews were cool. Apparently, there's going to be another Transformers movie and a Tarzan animation (A little heads up). The movie hall went silent as the first scene of Maleficent played on screen. Angelina Jolie made an amazing dragon-witch/fairy and Elle Fanning's performance was innocently cute. When I walked out of the cinema, I was Maleficent-inspired. I heard a couple of people say that they were coming to watch it again on the next session, because that's how amazing it was.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

DO IT YOURSELF

Maintenance

Clean out all the junk left behind by browsers. To do this, you can use the Disk Cleanup utility included on the Windows systems, or download a freeware program such as CCleaner to do it for you. In Linux you can use Kleansweep or Bleachbit. Cookies and cache left behind by browsers can amount up to gigabytes of wasted space, so it is imperative they're deleted.

Search and destroy spyware and/or viruses on your PC. See The Computer Man for anti virus software available to do this.

Defragment your hard drive monthly to keep your computer running smoothly. Windows XP includes a utility to do this, but a tool called Magical Defrag also exists, which automatically defrags your system during periods of inactivity.

Uninstall programs you no longer use, and delete music you no longer listen to. The more free space your computer has, the faster it will go. You'll be surprised how much space you'll free up and how much your computer's performance will increase.

Use the msconfig command in the RUN command prompt to open up a window that will allow you to uncheck start up programs you don't use. This can up your start up and boot down times a lot. CCleaner also has a feature that allows you to do the same thing (Tools--->Startup)

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO



Let our IT specialists do it for you. Your power supply is required for all laptops & all-in-one computer systems. A deposit of \$50 is required in advance for any job & covers the initial 30minutes labour cost to repair or provide a diagnosis of the problem.

Book In \$50

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HP 20-2000a - AMD E1-2500
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drive - DVD Writer - 19" LED -
Webcam - Wifi - Bluetooth -
Keyboard & Mouse - Windows
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Not on our Specials email List ? Email us at sales@thecomputerman.co.ck
Or Log-in @ www.thecomputerman.co.ck

Te Reo Maori

Na Ruteru Taripo

Pukapuka`anga – Conversational

Nō te Ora/Taime, `ē te Tuātau

`E ora tēia	This is a clock
`E a`a tēia/tēnā/tērā?	What is this/that(near you)/that (away from us)
`E ora tēnā.	That (near you) is a clock.
`E a`a te ora i tēia nei?	What is the time now?
`E ora `ā (te ora i tēia nei)	It is now 4 o`clock
`E ta`i-nga`uru-mā-ono meneti	Its 16 minutes past 7
`i pāti i te ora itu	
`E `āpa tēia no te ora iva	Its now half past nine
Kua waitata i te tuaero	Its nearly 12 oclock
Ā`ea koe e `akaoti ei?	When are you finishing?
Ākonei ake i te ora rima	Later on at 5 oclock
Āpōpō i te avatea-pū	Tomorrow at midday/noon
Ā tērā`o atu pōpōngi	On the morning after tomorrow
Ā tēia Varaire ki mua	Next Friday
Ā tēia mata`iti roa ki mua	Until next year
Ākōneinei ake!	Just a little, wee while yet!

Te au rā o te `Epetoma: Days of the Week

Mōnitē - Monday	Ru`irua - Tuesday	Ru`itoru - Wednesday
Paraparau - Thursday	Varaire - Friday	Ma`anākai - Saturday
	Tāpati - Sunday	

Kia Ūpoko-tū!

Let it flourish!

Ta`i, rua, toru, `ā!
Ngō`ie `ua kia akatātā
`Ō atu tātou kī mūa
Rima, ono, `itu, varu!
Āru mai `a iva `ē ta`i-nga`uru.
Nā rira `ua rāi te tatau
Ma te mā `ē te `ē ki rua-nga`uru
Te reo ō tātou kia ūpoko-tū
`E rau, `ē mano, te tuātau!

One, two, three and four!
It is simple to recite
Let us forward to advance
Five, six, seven and eight!
Followed by nine and ten.
Continue counting in this way
With conjunctions to two tens
Flourish on our language
For hundreds and thousands of years!

Scenes from BTIB Market Day

Photos by Te Riu Woonton





News Briefs By TeRiu Woonton

Outstanding citizens honoured

On Monday, the Queens Representative His Excellency Tom Marsters bestowed the Queen's Honours awards upon this year's recipients. The first person to be recognized in the Cook Islands was Lt Colonel Walter Edward Gudgeon back in 1901, a tradition which the Cook Islands continued on after self government in 1965. The following are the individuals appointed by Elizabeth II in her right as Queen of New Zealand, on advice of the Cook Islands Government.

William John Hosking was awarded the Order of the British Empire, Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the public and community.

Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) was awarded to Jon Tikivanotau Michael Jonassen for service to Cook Islands culture and Public Service.

The British Empire Medal (BEM) was awarded to Manila Matenga for services to the Public Service and Community and Vaine Noopuapii Teao for services to the community.

It was a proud occasion for those who were bestowed the honor for the long service they have done for the country. Minister Mark Brown said the Government will be looking at a proposal to establish the Cook Islands own National Honors awards; to recognize our people for their service in other fields, such as sport and law.

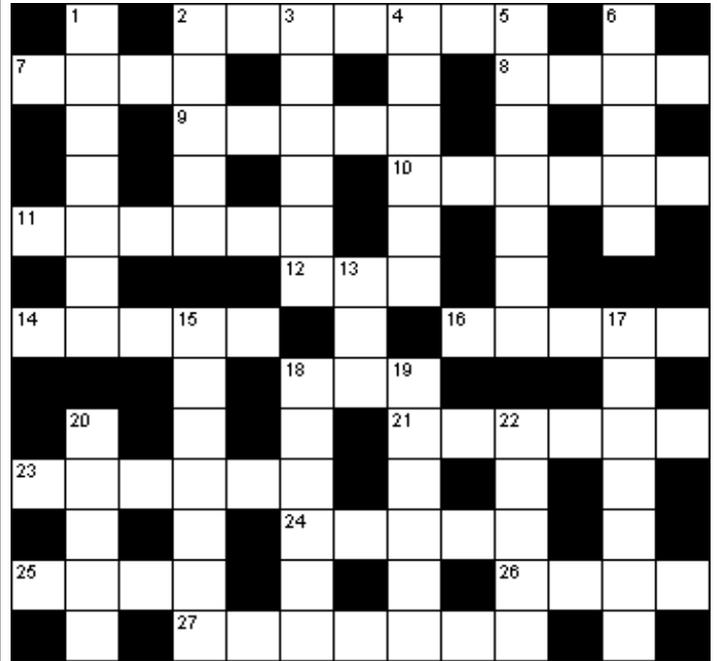
Cyclone report to be presented

Associate Professor Fes de Scally from The University of British Columbia, Okanagan will present his analysis of a 175-year record of cyclonic and storm surge inundations of coastal areas of Rarotonga. According the Climate Change Facebook page, the greatest risk to human life arises from many cyclone safety centres in locations where they are exposed to storm surges or flooding. Storm surge risk is also greatest along the north coast where the majority of the Cook Islands government functions and commercial, industrial, transportation and communication infrastructure is located. Damage to this infrastructure at the shoreline can have serious implications for the Cook Islands. His presentation will take place on Monday the 09th of June at the USP Campus at 7pm and the presentation is open to the public.

Atiu almost free of Myna birds

There is a good chance that Atiu will soon be the first significantly sized island with a big population of myna birds to ever be eradicated. Gerald McCormick of the Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust says you will be lucky to spot 2 or 3 of the birds while walking around the island and they have estimated there to be about 100 myna birds left looming. He says trapping and shooting has become extremely difficult over the past few months; 2 years ago, they would shoot over 100 birds a day, these days they will be lucky to shoot at least 4 a day. He says they are also bringing in birds from Rarotonga to use as decoy birds to put in the traps to attract the remaining myna birds.

CROSSWORD

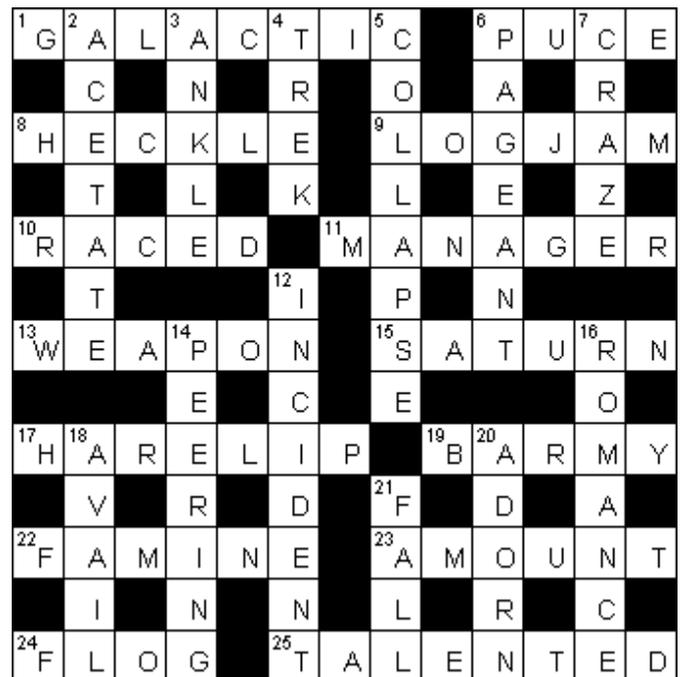


Across

- 2. Postpone
- 7. Blink
- 8. Prepare for publication
- 9. Set apart
- 10. Die
- 11. Bakehouse
- 12. Bashful
- 14. Fasten
- 16. Ruin
- 18. Swindle
- 21. Debris
- 23. Capital of Kansas
- 24. Vertical face of a stair
- 25. Greek island in the Aegean
- 26. Put down
- 27. Stonework

Down

- 1. Small community
- 2. Glide along smoothly
- 3. Spreads out
- 4. Restaurant
- 5. Hopelessness
- 6. Hot tempered
- 13. Cut and dried grass
- 15. Belief that there is no God
- 17. Guilty person
- 18. Protects
- 19. Place of confinement
- 20. Assembly of witches
- 22. Big and strong



How to live with integrity

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

There are people around us who are always watching how we behave, to see what kind of people we are especially when we claim to be Christians or believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether we like it or not they are watching us. In 1 Peter 2v.12 it reads "People who do not believe are living all around you. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God." They watch to see if what we say we believe matches what we do. People watch to see if we have integrity - meaning Honesty, Truthfulness, Reliability - this is the life of a Christian. Peter says that there are 3 things that test our INTEGRITY and people are going to watch how we respond to these things: (1) TEMPTATION, (2) AUTHORITY, (3) SUFFERING. How we respond to these 3 things will determine whether we are good witnesses for God or not, whether we have positive influence on others or not, and whether we have integrity or not. The main Bible reading for this Article of Encouragement is in 1 Peter 2v.11-25. In this passage Peter is saying, in living with INTEGRITY we need to do 3 things: 1) Stay away from TEMPTATION; 2) Show respect for those in AUTHORITY and; 3) Seek God in our SUFFERING.

1). STAY AWAY FROM TEMPTATION

Peter is saying if you don't want to get stung, stay away from the bees. If you don't want to get burned, stay away from the fire. When we live around people who repeatedly take the Lord's name in vain, pretty soon we start saying, "That doesn't bother me." It should bother us because Jesus' name is taken in vain. If you watch enough sex and violence movies on television and DVD's and says "It just doesn't bother me." Peter is saying that you're slowly giving in. If you don't mind watching other people do it, eventually you're going to end

up doing it. v.16 in our reading says "Live as free men, but don't use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God." As Born Again Christians we are free. We can't lose our salvation. But we shouldn't use that as an excuse to sin. Because integrity demands that we don't do what is not right in the sight of God. John 8v.36 reads "Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed." We are free and we will not lose our salvation. In v.15 of our reading in 1 Peter 2 it reads "It is God's will that your good lives silence those who foolishly condemn the Gospel without knowing what it can do for them, having never experienced its power." God's will for our life is that we live with integrity, that our life matches what we say we believe. It is God's will that we are to be an advocate for the Lord Jesus Christ, in our workplace, at school and where ever we are. We are the only Bible some people will ever read. In other words they observe how we behave.

II. SUBMIT TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY FOR THE LORD'S SAKE

Our integrity is tested on how we respond to authority -- people in government, people in law enforcement, our boss, spiritual authorities like Pastors, any authority figure in our lives. v.14 in our reading reads "For the Lord's sake yield to the people who have authority in this world: the king, who is the highest authority, and the leaders who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right." Peter is saying that a mark of a believer is to submit to those in authority. Submission is not a sign of weakness it is a sign of self control in accordance to the Word of God. Those in authority are ordained by God. God allows Government in order to establish order, to set up laws. Even bad government, we are to respect them. Why? Because it says, "For the Lord's

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



sake." You don't respect them because they deserve it. You respect them because the Lord has allowed them to serve you in that way. Peter is saying that "If you call yourself a Christian, you represent Christ."

v.14 reads "Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order." Does that mean Tax Laws?

Unfortunately it does! Traffic Laws? Of course! Show respect for authority! For the Lord's sake! v.17 reads "Show respect for everyone. Love Christians everywhere. Fear God and honor the government." Peter is saying 3 things that reveal if we are genuine believers or not. I will continue with Part 2 of this Article of Encouragement next week. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

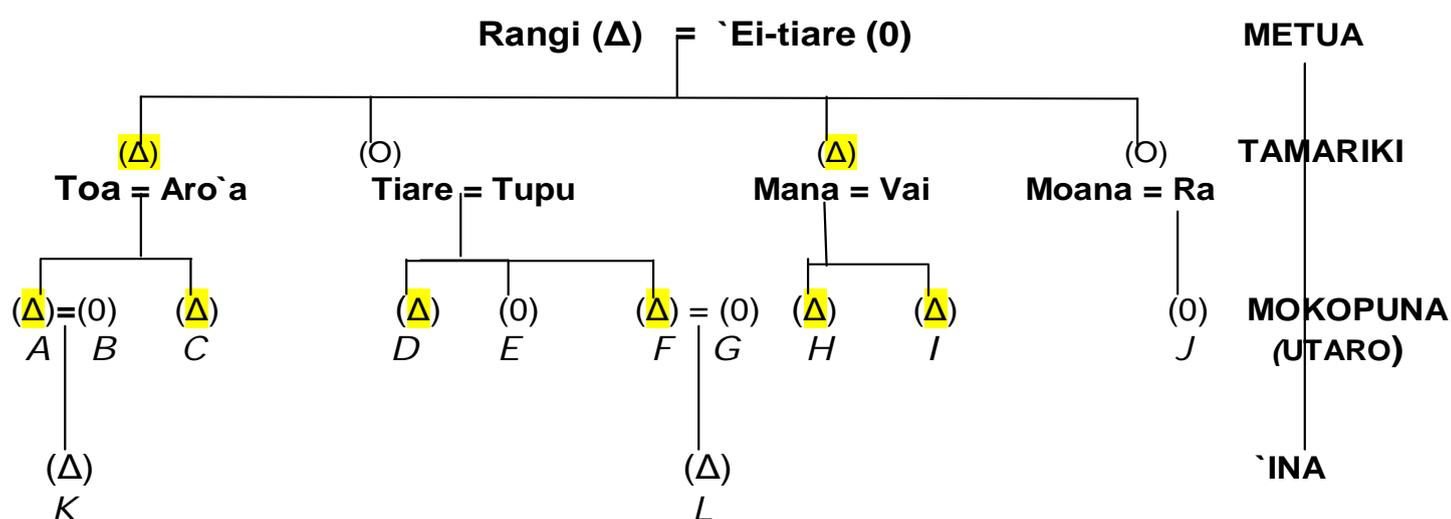
Sunday at 10.30am

TE REO MĀORI

Piri`anga Kōpū-tangata: Family Kinship

tātā`ia e Ruteria Taripo

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



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

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



The daily dribble's Edrey certainly isn't a man of his written word, after rejecting letters that attacked persons and written warnings his paper won't be used to slang off at others he has regularly compromised and given Boring Dogs free rein to vent her venom against those who question her politicking for the Bulldozer call me DPM Heta who will blame her for chasing voters away as a result of her piri home visitation on his behalf.



On Monday night the CIP live radio broadcast was typical Elvis Enneri propaganda. He can't fool the Rarotonga voters, but in his hypnotic slow talking Maori he wooed the outer island listeners for two hours with enough tangled lines to sink the Titanic. The three Takitumu candidates didn't add much to the broadcast probably because they were dumb founded by the creative fairy tale stories Elvis was telling the nation.



Party supporters from both camps are very thin when it comes to supporting their candidate; very small numbers are braving the exposure when the food isn't free. If a crowd of 50 turns up that's considered a good turnout, not like the old days when 200 was an average turn out, but then the food was free. Many CIP supporters are asking why they have to fund raise when Minita Heta has got millions from Te Mato Vai and when is he going to share the love around?



One roving Minister of the Cloth who attended the two campaign launches gave the three political groups a heavenly rating during his Sunday morning sermon. The One Cook Islands got a new born rating and should have registered for the \$1000 new born grant, the CIP were all about self praise



and being proud of their achievements but got 'awful' rating for not being humble, but the Demo got the best rating because one of their candidates, the next Akaa MP, Nooroa Chopper Baker spoke about God.



While there are a limited number of Queen's awards bestowed each year, the question of why no one from the media has ever got one goes begging. Maybe when the local honour awards come out the media will get one reluctantly tossed their way.



There seems to be two ways of entering high paid jobs in the government. The main way into most Ministries, is through the front door however in MFEM's case, there is a secret backdoor through which the highly paid ex-pats enter. The latest to use this entrance is an ex-pat from Kiwiland with exquisitely manicured nails and a toffee-nosed manner. Interviewed and selected by a panel with no depth of experience in the job being filled, bets are on as to how long she will last, given the most recent Kiwiland ex-pat appointed so whisper has it, has gone off on stress leave.



Word chooks is the much lauded

sanitation project is in the pooh. The Kiwi contingent is having trouble flushing out the local dosh component. Unless this blockage is cleared up real soon, there could be an awfully embarrassing stink arising with fingers being pointed in all directions.



You can count on the vessel SS Daily under Commodore Bark du Hey to sail minus important items. Yesterday the SS Daily set sail leaving one sensitive document behind-papers regarding the selection process for a local national team. Not to worry! Commodore Bark issued a statement about the document but just what the document contained, will be revealed in the log of the Super Liner, SS Weekly.



Local fire and knife dancers need to sharpen up their act says one recently returned, overseas trained fire and knife dancing local. Too many dropped items-not good for the tourists who expect better. Local says tourist resorts should put up the dosh to attract the experts so tourists get top value for their money.



When is the QR going to be awarded a Knighthood? It is intolerable that our Head of State who also represents Her

Majesty, is still a "commoner." Only a Knight is fit to represent Her Majesty and just imagine the conversation over a toast and marmalade breakfast at Buckingham Palace-"Philip dear, who is this Tom fellow?"



The Herald a pooh bah paper? The jungle drums out west are beating out this message which was passed on in the Daily. But consider this. The weekly is owned by locals and run by locals. The Daily is owned by papa'a, run by a papa'a Editor with papa'a reporters. The weekly features articles each week in Maori. Not so the Daily. The Herald has for years exposed and attacked corruption while politicians and the government watchdogs have remained silent and done nothing. You the reader be the Judge.

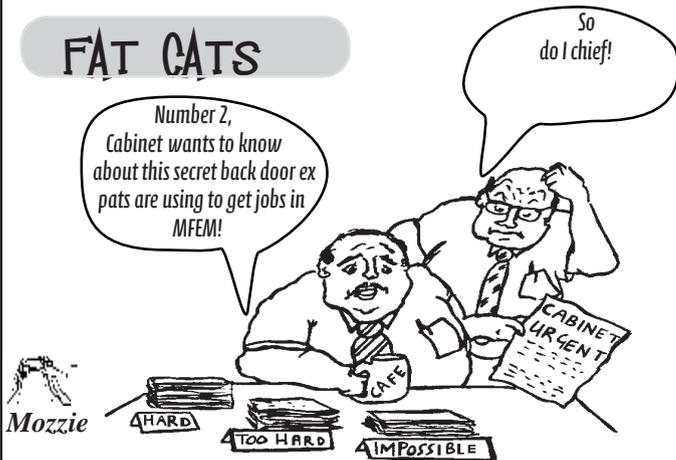


Ever noticed on the goggle box chooks how the man in blue when talking about road safety and other matters, stands close to the road with his back to the oncoming traffic. One day, he may become a statistic.



Interesting how some details behind the massive grant (not a loan) from China to enable the undertaking of economic development projects by the private sector were released recently. The news was relayed in Maori (not English) over radio and it was revealed Pacific nations have agreed to split the fund evenly rather than according to population or priority. The Cooks will therefore receive \$125 million. A high ranking Chinese official will be arriving in the near future and this arrangement between Pacific leaders will be discussed.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



PUBLIC NOTICE

**TELECOM COOK ISLANDS LIMITED
- EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

TCNZ Cook Islands Limited ("Telecom New Zealand") owns 60% of the shares in Telecom Cook Islands Limited (the "Shares"). It seeks expressions of interest from Cook Islanders and Cook Islands enterprises who may have an interest in acquiring the Shares and can satisfy the matters below.

Please submit your expression of interest to Craig Walton at craig.walton@tnzi.com and hand deliver a copy to Tim Arnold, Ingram House, Rarotonga, on or before 10 June 2014. Please note the time frame for expressions of interest has been extended.

Any expressions of interest should provide evidence that:

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