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Blatant conflicts of interest, perceptions of corruption

What does it take to get intervention

Apart from the hurried identity change of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, it would appear it is business as usual for our Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather, the Minister of the newly whitewashed Government works department renamed Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI).

When DPM Heather's company T&M Heather Ltd was first publically exposed for agreeing to a multimillion dollar contract with the TMV contractors China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) in early March 2014 it was one week off being signed. Heather's offensive response was swift, venomous and vitriolic on a live Radio Broadcast for one hour. The reporter was the focus of his verbal abuse and defaming criticism while the issues raised in this publication were side stepped.

Ignoring the DPM Heather's threats and demands for an apology the corruption issues have been pursued but he has never responded in written form. The DPM has reverted to a defence of silence despite numerous efforts to get Heather's response to questions of his conflicts of interest in relation to the multimillion dollar Te Mato Vai project except to say he is a Christian and does not do such things.

When light heartedly questioned in Cabinet his verbal response was sufficient to give his fellow Cabinet Ministers comfort the damning media article was all untrue and lies of the worst kind. Advised to make a response in writing Heather had his own response, a Chairman of a Board sacking

and his verbal bullying. The voting public have been waiting anxiously for some modicum of remorse to be shown by the DPM however the Project Steering Committee, PERCA, Crown Law and his political colleagues including the Opposition fence sitters appear to have simply chosen to turn a blind eye. Being the Minister of Police, Heather has his bases covered.

Even after the findings into the administration of ICI by KPMG are concerned, (Instigated by the former NZ High Commissioner John Carter) this international body of auditors unearthed findings of such a magnitude that in any society where such happenings were even muted to have taken place an investigation would have been initiated straight away but no, deathly silence from the Watch Dog Institutions. Pointless expecting the Ombudsman to mount an investigation, as he is too closely related.

The appalling findings which were unearthed were sent to the appropriate Ministries in Rarotonga and then simply buried so it would appear along with all the other short comings which the DPM has perpetrated. Even after this publication published extracts of the KPMG report there was gasps of concern but nothing else eventuated concerning Heather.

The comments by KPMG as far as double charging on accounts and favouritism of T&M Heather Ltd over other companies appears to be accepted by the powers including a passive Opposition thanks to Eddie Drollet as being normal. What does it take to end this appalling blatant abuse of power and

privilege? For what reason can the likes of the Audit Office, PERCA, MFEM, the TMV Steering Committee or the Police justify their outrageous lack of investigation? Where is the intervention? No one is expecting the weak kneed Prime Minister Henry Puna to initiate an official investigation after he rewarded the controversial Heather with the DPM position. Who will have the courage of their convictions to stand up and say enough is enough? Will a change in government spark an inquiry?

The DPM Heather is no stranger to political manipulations and sleight of hand dealings with government. Some years ago the Australian government gifted the Cook Islands a brand new sophisticated top of the line aggregate crushing plant worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. It operated in full view of the public at the Black Rock quarry till the resource was exhausted.

It was reassembled out of sight out of mind at T&M Heather Ltd's in land Arorangi quarry. There is no record of the plant being contestably tendered or sold to Heather's company. Some claim it was exchanged for product from Heather's quarry.

Has the public become so numb by the openness of political abuse it is deemed normal and a moral tolerance? DPM Heather gives the arrogant appearance and cognitive distortion that as the Minister of Police and the Minister of ICI he is not only above the law but the law.

When will this sham be dealt with for what it is? Is the Opposition cowardly silent,



DPM Teariki Heather

letting the media do their work? Is a precedent being created for others to duplicate once in power? Will it take the voters to change the deck of cards or will public apathy crown this corrupted CIP government with a mandate to continue their political abuses?

While the Opposition pledge to establish yet another watch dog group to investigate corruption, they lack the conviction to challenge the obvious before their eyes. Even in Parliamentary question time Heather was never targeted by the Opposition for his obvious conflicts of interest involving millions of dollars of TMV contracts.

When the a former Minister of Police ended up being convicted over a corrupt act of personal gain to the value of less than \$500 it took a courageous member of the public to prepare the evidence that the Police could not ignore.

Why does it have to take an individual member of the public to make a moral stand against the politically corrupt and the equally corrupted officials who protect them?

- George Pitt

No clear winner in sight this election

By Charles Pitt

The consensus of opinion emerging from groups around the island discussing the likely outcome of this general election is that there appears to be no clear winner in sight.

Still just over a month out from the election, most predictors have the Cook Islands Party (CIP) taking 10, possibly 11 seats. However, a month in politics is a long time and anything could happen.

Of concern to the CIP is the public perception of how the CIP has managed the economy. The loss of support from the elderly whose old age pensions have become taxable translates into a loss of votes. Also of concern is the increase in VAT from 12.5% to 15% has seen retail

prices increase by more than 2.5% placing many households in the situation of finding it hard to make ends meet. The reduction in tax on worker's pay is soon dissipated on higher retail costs. While tourist numbers are on the rise and tourist spending is close to \$200 million per year, little of that revenue is trickling down to ordinary people. Much of this income is spent on importing items to satisfy the tourist demand. The trade imbalance is widening and there are no new major private sector developments underway.

Of concern to the Democratic Party will be the fact "Toagate" will not go away.

The emergence of the One Cook Islands Movement,

founded and led by former CIP Cabinet Minister Teina Bishop is fielding four strong candidates in just four key seats. Bishop is focusing on seats that are winnable and on the key issue of reform. There is a strong possibility the Movement could win all four seats and end up holding the balance of power. Bishop then could find his group in the position of deciding which of the major parties becomes government.

In our electoral system of 24 seats, a party needs only win 13 seats to govern. However, 13 is not a good number and renders a ruling party vulnerable should just one MP decide enough's enough.

While general public opinion seems to be no party will win outright, what is

clear is that Bishop's group may win four seats, but certainly three.

Latest reports reaching this paper are that after nearly 50 years of self government, the major parties still haven't got it right in terms of being able to establish a sustainable economy and maintain public confidence. Many people will be looking for reformation and a new direction. The recent experiments with a free market approach does not work in a society based on shared values and a united approach. This was borne out in NZ when the then PM put the brakes on Rogernomics forcing the then Finance Minister Roger Douglas, to resign. Considering our close association with NZ, why are we trying to re-visit Rogernomics?

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Outer Islands Renewable Energy installations an experiment for NZ technology

Anounced recently in Cook Islands was the New Zealand Government's awarding to a NZ company a \$23 million dollar contract to deliver and assemble a solar power system in our outer islands is well intended but a misguided gesture that typifies the gullibility of the Henry Puna CIP Government who are heavily influenced by a narrow perception of the options to replace our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

The mass production of solar energy equipment may have reduced the price but the costs are questionable and not yet reliably established. Rarotonga is yet to see a reduction in electricity tariff proportional to the assimilation of new alternative energy into the Island's grid.

The concept of solar driven energy was tried in Pukapuka courtesy of over \$2 million of French aid. Solar installations were provided for each household but when the expensive battery's life ended the cost to maintain and continue the non fossil fuel experiment was considered too costly and the island reverted to diesel driven generators to provide the electricity. The disposal of battery waste is an environmental concern.

The maintenance cost of the solar installations especially in the isolated northern group will be the biggest challenge to long term continuity. Last year Tokelau Islands converted to 100 percent solar renewable energy but immediately struck technical problems that required them to seek external assistance to maintain the new set up.

It is unrealistic to expect generated electricity can be made redundant thus some sort of engine maintenance must be continued to ensure a backup system is in place.

Corrosion will be a serious challenge to overcome in the low lying atolls that are prone to wind salt, cyclones, tidal surges and coconut frond damage

to name a few. Sustainability is in question if the Pukapuka experiment is a bench mark. But with successive governments eager to give the appearances of doing something vote enhancing for the neglected outer islands, short term benefits are better than nothing.

If NZ is willing to offer boomerang aid so be it especially if it is voter friendly. NZ companies will reap the bulk of the sponsor's funds with the crumbs being fed to our highly competent contractors to keep them subdued. Once again we are witnessing the deprived outer islands being told what is good for them without genuine consultation and presenting alternative technology options like bio-fuel powered generators.

What is the shelf life of the solar technology in the northern group conditions and context? Eventually thousands of batteries will have to be disposed of and replaced, how is that going to be done and what will it cost? Is the rush to implement measures to realise the Prime Minister's brain explosion vision to be 100 percent reliant on renewable energy? Is the rush to put runs on the board to justify the Renewable Energy Commissioner Roger de Bray's excessive \$300,000 salary? de Bray's Cook Islands tenure has been his personal learning curve funded at the expense of others.

Arriving in the Cook Islands, de Bray came with a clean slate having had no previous work experience in renewable energy and by gleaning information from knowledgeable locals and attending overseas conferences he has accumulated a limited and very narrow appreciation of renewable energy but not to the extent that justifies his \$6,000 weekly pay packet. De Bray has been a conduit stooge for the NZ government to experiment and flirt with renewable energy technology.

But let us look at what really will be of long term benefit to our people it is stated the savings to us will be approx \$900,000 a

year in fuel imports? Fine, but from this, tax is collected on VAT, levy and profit generated by the importer all of which MFEM has taken into account for revenue they will collect every month from the fuel supplier. So the revenue MFEM tax collectors have budgeted they will get will be reduced accordingly down.

If the Government was serious about initiatives to reduce the migration of outer islanders serious thought should have been given to creating a fossil fuel redundant subsistence economy in the northern group islands.

Consider replanting coconut trees on all the islands in accessible areas around the coast., This has a twofold benefit as it holds the coast line together and helps break the velocity of the tidal surge during a storm .Also a tree has a life of 60 years not 20 years, the resource is free and available on each island. The nuts then are collected as they fall so the cost is minimal as there is little or no cost in having a coconut plantation.

The nuts then are centrally delivered to a plant where locals cut and remove the fresh meat, which after removal is heated by fuel supplied by the husk not fossil fuel, then after the water is extracted the meal is desiccated and fed through an oil extractor. The oil is stored in a non corrodible stainless tank. The meal is cooled and bagged for supply as a low fat feed for chicken and pig production. The oil is then supplied to the local power station and blended with diesel in fact if the engine's fuel pump is calibrated correctly it can run on pure coconut oil.

By doing this, a new industry and employment is created to pay locals a decent wage on each island, it does not matter if this actually costs more than importing diesel as all the money stays on island. Coconut oil has an extended shelf life and can be stored against emergencies with excessive production exported. The outer islands have the basic resources to live off the grid.



Roger de Bray

Last year Samoa embarked on a government driven project to plant one million coconut trees of a specific variety to grow their coconut produce industry.

The local shipping company would also have meal to carry down to Rarotonga to sell to the local pig farmers but also cured pork products or live pigs. This scheme is a tried and proven one done in other islands of the Pacific, the \$23 million as aid could have been spent on infrastructure on each island including coconut planting instead the money expended mostly is for a company in New Zealand.

The multi-million dollar investment in renewable energy was supposed to foster private sector development to grow the economy but the application of a single technology (solar power) reveals a lack of basic intelligence in how to integrate technology with economic development.

de Bray's plans may tickle the fancy of the Prime Minister but they will adversely hasten the ever increasing exit of people from the outer islands and increase the cost of freight to the outer islands. The Government it seems wants to implement a subsidised monthly service to the northern group. This could be a winner if there was freight from the outer islands. - George Pitt

Forklift trucks are dangerous-beware

By Charles Pitt

Although training to NZ standards in the safe use of forklift trucks has been available in Rarotonga for a number of years, it is disappointing to learn of unsafe incidents occurring and unsafe practices being followed by supposedly trained operators.

In the Cook Islands the safe use of such trucks in workplaces is enforced by the Ministry of Internal Affairs Labour Inspectors. The safe use of such trucks on a public road is enforced by the Police.

Last week, three unsafe incidents around Avatiu were reported to the Herald and the Ministry of Internal Affairs by a person who wishes not to be named. Photos were also provided.

In the first incident reported, a worker was observed washing the windows of a first floor office standing on the raised forks of an unattended forklift truck. On finishing this job, the worker called out to another worker to bring him down while he sat on the bare forks with his feet hanging down. This was an extremely dangerous action because the worker could easily have fallen had one of the forks been dislodged by a sudden movement. Also the backrest was missing exposing the worker to the chains on the forklift.

The second incident happened at another workplace where a worker was seen



carrying another person on a wooden pallet which also had other items on it. The worker got off after someone told him it was dangerous.

The third incident happened at another workplace where a worker was seen standing on a pallet raised up some three metres and there were other items on the pallet also. The worker was wiring up some lights. A special safety cage

was not available at the time because it was being used on another job.

While forklift trucks have been in use for over 70 years and the modern day forklift has many built in safety features, it is the unsafe way the forklifts are being used by workers that is a concern.

Forklift trucks should only be operated by workers who have been trained in their safe use

and certified by a competent trainer. No worker should operate a forklift unless authorized by the employer.

Note: Charles Pitt was a member of the Forklift Safety Advisory Committee set up NZ's Department of Labour to establish Codes of Practice for the various types of forklift trucks used and also the Code setting standards for Trainers of forklift operators.

Our Frontpage model Damien Beddoes Appointed to Lead the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund



Acting Chairman of the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund, Richard Neves announced the appointment of Damien Beddoes as Chief Executive of the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund for three years.

Damien has had a long history of banking and finance experience in both New Zealand with the National Bank of New Zealand and the Cook Islands with the Bank of the Cook Islands.

Damien is currently the Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for Telecom Cook Islands and is looking forward to his new role.

"I certainly enjoy challenges and look forward to working with the team at the CINSF office and all the stakeholders of the Cook Islands National Superannuation, in particular the members who have their savings in the Fund. The CINSF is there to provide for the future needs of our people, I am very proud to be working towards that objective."

The Acting Chairman thanked the team at the CINSF and in particular, Angela Charlie for her efforts in maintaining the Office during the recruitment process.

Damien will commence his new role on 7 July.

Our frontpage girl this week is Mata Tangata, an Officer at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

News Briefs

Black Widow Spiders on the move

Spraying was conducted at the CITC Food area in particular on their delivery vehicles yesterday where cocoons were discovered on Saturday by staff.

Previously spraying was only conducted at eastern and western sides of the airport where cocoons had been discovered.

According to Bio-security officer Pavai they are now drawing their attention to the Avatiu wharf area. The spiders he says are hitchhikers and can only be transported when things are shifted. Otherwise, he urges people to call them if they find the suspected spiders.

Renewable Energy Update

The efforts made by the Renewable Energy Department to find funding to achieve the country's 50% by 2015 vision is starting to pay off.

NZAID has confirmed \$25 million grant for 8 power stations in the Northern Group including the Airport West project. The ADB and EU have confirmed \$7 million for Mauke, Mitiaro and Mangaia. The ADB have also confirmed \$9 million for Atiu, Aitutaki and Rarotonga. This makes a total of \$41 million dollars of confirmed funding. This does not include Te Aponga Uira's own self-funded projects.

Te Maeva Nui Update

The Opening Ceremony and Float Parade for this year's Te Maeva Nui Celebrations will be held on Monday 28th July. The cultural night performances will be held throughout the week at the National Auditorium. The Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony will be on Monday 4th August. Ministry of Culture says that 7 teams are confirmed to join this year's Celebrations and they are Vaka Takitumu, Vaka Puaikura, Oire Nikao, Atiu Enea, Mangaia Enea, Nukuroa Enea & Araura Enea.

Cost of Tobacco to Increase

Tobacco prices will increase another 33% come 1st of July 2014. This is part of a policy to reduce the number of tobacco-related NCD cases. According to MFEM, tobacco increases had already

begun last year on the 1st July 2013, and every start of financial year meaning 1st of July for three years, the price of tobacco will automatically increase by 33%. After the third year (2015) the price will increase by only 2% per annum. According to Dr. Fariu of Public Health, they are also looking to reduce the quantity of duty free cigarettes that are allowed although that will probably be after the elections.

Bribery Allegations

According to Democratic Party Leader Wilkie Rassmussen, he has received calls from Aitutaki that bribery is occurring on that island in relation to the elections.

The Electoral Act sections 87 and 88 are very clear on what is bribery and treating, and it not only refers to candidates, but to the campaign team as well as to the voters. It's a punishable offence and you could face up to 5 years imprisonment.

Climate Change Update

Several of the SRIC projects (that look at strengthen the resilience of our Pa Enea against climate change) are now in the implementation phase. SRIC is a \$5million dollar project that runs over 5 years, and will see up to 18 projects implemented. The project has about another 3.5 years left.

Household Water tank project: CI Building Supplies were awarded the contract for this which will see 146x 6,000L water tanks installed for Atiu, 27 for Palmerston, and 309 for Aitutaki. Ben Parakoti has been appointed project manager in Aitutaki. The project not only gives each household on these islands water tanks but will look at awareness about water conservation, roof catchment as well as building sustainable water policies.

Willie Tuivaga of Climate Change office who is the implementing agency says it will take time to see the results of these projects in terms of building resilience.

Action man to launch his campaign

By Charles Pitt

Tupapa/Maraerenga's sitting member of parliament, George "Action Man" Maggie, is to officially launch his re-election campaign this Thursday at the Rakahanga Hostel at 6pm and all are invited.

Elected in the 2010 general election under the Cook Islands Party (CIP) banner, Maggie is standing this time for the new "One Cook Islands Party Movement Inc" founded and lead by Aitutaki MP Teina Bishop, a former Minister in the CIP government Cabinet.

The One Cook Islands Movement's candidate for Mauke, Nane Williams will also be in attendance. Her official campaign launch is scheduled to take place on Friday 20 June in Mauke.

Teina Bishop himself will be on hand to speak about the Movement's aims. Bishop's official launch is scheduled to take place in Aitutaki next Monday.

A builder by trade, Maggie has truly earned his title of "Action Man" and unlike many other MPs, Maggie has been highly visible. During his first term in parliament Maggie has had some notable achievements the main one being the installation of free, fresh, treated, drinking water which attracts people from all around Rarotonga. Maggie installed covered seating for spectators attending games at Victoria Park and saw to it that additional street lights were installed where they were needed most. He has also helped to keep the streets in Tupapa/Maraerenga clean.

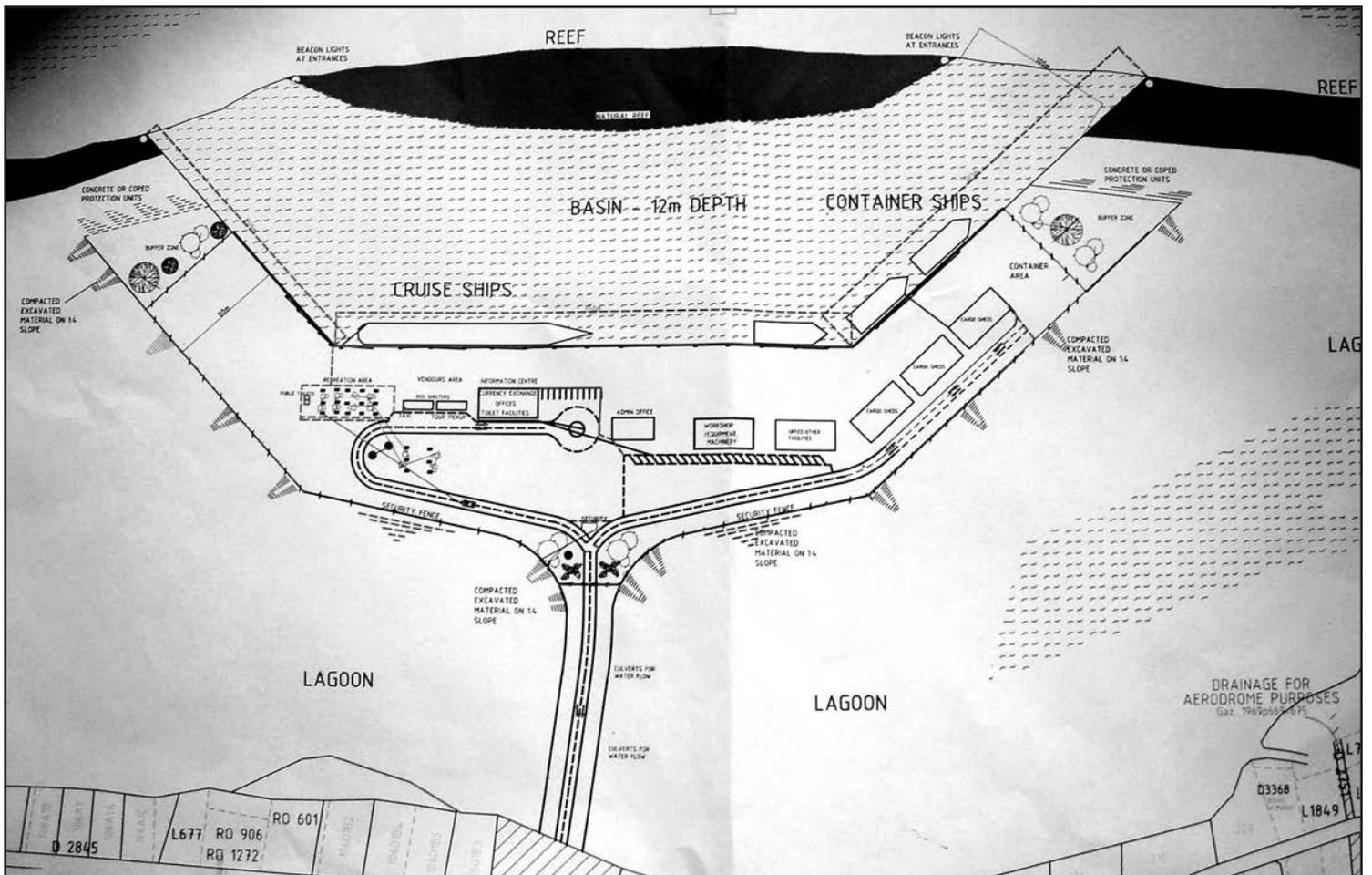
This election, One Cook Islands is fielding four candidates. It's manifesto document has been finalized. It is a brief document however it reflects the Movement's approach which is highly focused on reforms in key areas.

It is expected the document will also be released publically at Maggie's launch.



The Action man installing covered seating at Victoria Park

Port development project would utilize Chinese loan offer



By Charles Pitt

Government officials looking possible infrastructure projects to utilize part of the US\$1 billion dollar concessional loan from China to Pacific nations, might consider re-visiting an earlier proposal to construct a new deep water port at Nikao where the parliament building is located.

This site was endorsed by former Ports Chairman Sam Crocombe after it was recommended by former Harbour Master Don Silk and the then Captain of the cruise ship Paul Gauguin.

At that time it was believed there would be long term economic benefits from constructing a new deep water port at Nikao where the lagoon is wide enough for such a development.

Against future development of Avatiu Port is that it cannot be further deepened and enlarged without enormous

costs to enable large cruise vessels to turn around. There are also height restrictions in terms of the aircraft flight paths. Also with further commercial development of the area, streets would become too congested.

To construct a deep water port at Nikao, Crocombe estimated construction costs at between \$50 million to \$100 million. While this might sound prohibitive, consider this, a single large cruise ship carrying 2,000 passengers and 1,000 crew members could pump between \$500,000 to \$1 million into the local economy especially if over nighting. One large cruise ship a fortnight could mean around \$20 million pumped into the local economy in the course of a year. There is also the revenue the port would make from berthing fees.

The sea cruise industry offers huge potential for the Cook Islands and the Asia Pacific region is growing in popularity

among world cruise companies. Sadly Rarotonga and Aitutaki lack serious port facilities which impact on our ability to develop this sector. New Zealand receives over 100,000 cruise passengers per year on 92 ships and the amount generated in expenditure has been estimated at around \$368 million in direct spending equating to around \$3,500 per person. NZ's cruise industry generates an additional \$165 million in value added services and sustains over 2,500 fulltime jobs a year. If Rarotonga's cruise industry could generate just a fraction of what NZ makes, it would be worth it. Having a deep water port would attract other cruise companies not currently calling here.

A concept plan has already been completed. It shows a "U" shaped harbour. The concept is similar to the port at Raiatea in Tahiti. Silk had previously promoted the idea of

a port at this site to successive governments but to no avail.

The plan shows a basin 12 metres deep with berthing for both cruise ships and container vessels. The port area would be on top of compacted excavated material. The "U" shape is designed to counter sea surges. There are two entrances. The port is 80 metres wide at its narrowest and will have a recreation area with public toilets, a vendor's area, a pick up area for buses, taxis and tour vehicles, an information centre with currency exchange office, offices and toilet facilities, a port administration office, cargo sheds and a container area. Both ends of the port have buffer zones with tree plantings and there will be concrete or COPED protection units off these zones.

The port will sit out in the lagoon and have a causeway around 100 metres long connecting it to the shore.

Letter to the Editor

Support your team

Dear Editor,
I wouldn't normally respond to letters in your editorial however the comments made by Kayla-Maria Hirovaana in last week's Herald (4th June 2014) has so many errors and unsubstantiated comments that someone needs to set the record straight.

1. Cecile Marten as team manager did not have anything to do with the team selection. Only the coach has this authority (this selection was supported by the high performance committee)

2. Cecile Marten volunteered for the job as manager because no one answered the adverts for this non paid position

3. All the girls were advised from the beginning in February 2014 when the new Coach was appointed that their positions were not guaranteed and that two players would not be in the starting line up to comply with the rules of the competition

4. When the selection was finalised, all the girls were advised by the Coach why they got their positions or why they didn't make the team

5. Cook Islands Netball appointed Trish as the national Coach based on her CV as a former international representative and from her experience in working with New Zealand Netball

The long letter in the Herald is nothing more than a disgruntled family member venting her frustration in public without knowing

the facts and without understanding how the assessments were made and the strategies the Coach was attempting to implement with the current line up. Cook Islands Netball does not have the funding or the resources that other countries have and they are trying their best to trial out new strategies until they find the right combination which is part of developing this sport. Both the Coach and Manager positions are voluntary and not paid so they are making huge sacrifices to help develop Cook Islands Netball and don't need to be dealing with people that mud sling from the side lines.

If I was part of Cook Islands Netball, I would have removed Tatiana Hirovaana's name from the list of potential players because of the way she acted when throwing a tantrum after been advised of missing out on selection including the reaction and damaging comments from her family on Facebook. This is not the first time this has happened and there is a history of similar problems experienced by previous teams with this family venting their frustration openly. The poor sportsmanship and display of disrespect could bring the game that we love so much into disrepute. It is obvious that Kayla does not know that both Natalia and Eri Short have played Auckland reps in New Zealand that Kayla thinks was only achieved by her sister. Natalia has held the position of Captain & Vice Captain for

teams in Auckland including school Premier netball, Auckland Reps age groups and currently an Auckland Premier 2 club team. Eri had also been selected amongst the Auckland schools to play an invitational Australian Rugby Union 7's in New Zealand which is reflected by her aggressive play on the court. What our young players need is encouragement not negative publicity as shown by the letter in the Herald.

Moaning to the newspapers and via the media network is not the way to go about dealing with a disagreement with the selection of the team. Coaches are selected to make these hard decisions and the best response Kayla and her family could have done would have been to support her sister's team mates. This would have shown her and her family to be true sportswomen and a supportive family putting their differences aside and demonstrating professionalism and integrity. Maybe this display is an indication that the decision made was the correct one. After all, having the right attitude in putting the team first is one of the key requirements for selection. At least Antonina Browne (the reigning Miss Cook Islands) who would have been disappointed in missing out on selection continued to show her support by visiting the team while still in camp. It is not a good look for sponsors when disgruntled families of the netball players

undermine the team unit with constant accusations regarding selection or who should hold the title of captain which in the scheme of things is a minor issue that shouldn't take precedence over the big picture...the team.

With all the attacks against the Coach before, during and after the tournament, it would be a miracle that she continues to carry this thankless position into the future. She improved the rankings for the Samoan under 21's last year as their new coach however she had the full support of the people who were willing to give her a chance.

In comparison to the Cook Islands, we started crucifying our new Coach before she had even started her job and it is a wonder she didn't pack up and leave. It doesn't take a genius to see that the Cook Islands have the youngest and most inexperienced team in the World Series Qualifier however in the long term, we would have an advantage because we would have already started giving them the experience that will develop them as the team to beat in years to come. Unless you want to put your hand up for the Coaches position, stop moaning and start supporting this young team. They need the investment of the Cook Islands people in their development and a long term strategy for a commitment into the future.

*Signed
Supporter of developing
young talent*

PACMAS Business and Economic Reporting workshop



TeRiu Woonton is in the back, fourth from the left.

The 3-day training workshop commenced today in Apia, Samoa and is providing a group of Pacific reporters with an overview of reporting on business and economic issues in the Pacific region. It's also aimed at developing their knowledge and skills in an effort to demystify financial jargon.

Attending the workshop is Pitt Media Group's Te Riu Woonton. Woonton started at PMG as a junior reporter at the age of just six years old when she had her own column in the Cook Islands Herald. She later ran her own Teen Scene show on Radio Cook Islands before progressing to compiling news for the Herald and Radio CI.

The workshop is facilitated by ABC Radio Australia's Pacific Economic and Business reporter Jemima Garret who is also an author and journalism trainer. Garret has covered major political and economic stories for ABC radio news and current affairs; and has provided training in the Pacific. In 2013 she won the Citijournalism Broadcast Media Award for business reporting in Australia and New Zealand and the United Nations Association of Australia Award for Best Radio documentary.

The Samoa workshop participants will be involved in lively discussions and practical learning and topics will include the anatomy of the Pacific economics and their place in the world, and the role of economic policy and institutions in national and organisational performance.

Participants are from the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Samoa and they will be provided with a guide to key sources of information and how to use them, and receive practical insight on how to use their new knowledge to produce compelling stories for their target audience.

The key outcomes of the PACMAS Business and Economic Reporting workshop are to improve understanding of key economic and business issues; improve understanding of the principles of business and economic reporting; improve skills in financial and economic analysis; and develop regional networks.

The Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) is funded by the Australian Government and managed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
June 10, 2014

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Cooks Islands Head of State departs Avele College celebrations with deep emotions

By Meripa Gospel Uelese

APIA: TUESDAY 10th JUNE 2014: As an old boy of Avele College, 1960-1962, the Cook Islands Head of State, His Excellency Tom Marsters departed Samoa last night in deep emotions as his school days at the then regional college shaped what he has become as a leader.

He was farewelled in Avele style that brought him to life – the sāsā – slap dance where he and another student Apelu Aitaoto – currently working and living in American Samoa – led the dance as ‘fa’alumas’ to win the national sāsā competition in 1962 and performed during the country’s independence celebrations then.

His Excellency and good lady Tuaine were guests at the weeklong celebrations of 90 years of Avele College and shed tears when they saw the welcome by the Avele College students and the old pupils of Avele, spreading flowers on a red carpet to where the entertainment was held.

Back at the school for the first time after 50 years was emotional enough and was fighting to hold back the tears when he spoke fondly of how the college had shaped his life. And then watching the performances of Samoan dances he knew so well.

“I watched the last performance, the sasa and I remember 1962, the independence celebration of Samoa. The celebration was held at Mulinu’u and Avele sāsā came first in the local competition. I was very impressed with the two young students guiding the sāsā because I and the old colleague Apelu Aitaoto were the two men then guiding the Avele sāsā in Avele,” he said.

“When I entered Avele in 1960 I was very young and I remember there were



Cooks Islands Head of State His Excellency Tom Marsters and good lady Tuaine welcomed at the College yesterday

instructions given to you for you to live for the rest of your life in the school. You have one mat, you have one pillow, you have one blanket and most importantly you have one mosquito net... (laughter). But more importantly, you have one sapelu (bushknife) and thesapelu is your main tool in the school.”

“These were the happiest years of my life.....the years I spent here in Avele. When I enter the college this morning, memories were just thrown back, tears, and I am very happy to be here. When I look and listen to the singing this morning, it reminds me of my years. We were so good with everything we do – our choir, our singing, our sports, and everything else – Avele was top in Samoa. There is so much history in this place,” he said.

“In 1964 I went back to my country and formed the Avele Old Boys and it’s a very strong organisation of the Avele old boys in Cook Islands. In 1985,

because of the existence of the local Samoan families, I changed our name to Prince of Samoa and that organisation is still very much alive in Cook Islands.”

He said, “My wife and my friends know that in my house I have three flags, I have the original flag of our country which is green and gold, the new flag of Cook Islands which is blue and white and I have the Samoa flag.”

His last words “I have four children – three boys and one girl but they’re all grown up and do their own things. I also have six grandchildren and if it possible, I will bring one of my grandsons to be educated here at Avele College.”

His Excellency presented a gift for as a symbol of being an old boy of Avele and others in Cook Islands and engraved with the words: “From the students of Cook Islands presented by his Excellency Tom Marsters, Head of State, and the green representative

of the Cook Islands an old boy. June 2014.”

His Excellency is just one of many who went through Avele College doors over the last ninety years and Samoa has one of its senior MP and Cabinet Minister Tuiloma Pule Lameko as one former student.

The former students are spending a few days in camp at the college, reminiscing about their particular times at the school.

Avele College’s well known disciplinary measures devised and enforced by the students themselves are based on seniority and that the new listen and obey those who have been there longer.

Unbelievable but true stories include new students being instructed to go to the store with a long list of things to buy with the new students own money and to return with the change to be handed to the senior student who gave the instructions.

News Briefs

From the Climate Change Division at OPM

Kura Kuriri

Mr William Tuivaga is off to Fiji to attend the EU GIZ and SRDP meeting from 26th May – 6th June.

Ms Celine Dyer, Climate Change Cook Islands and Ms Lavinia Tama, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management are off to attend the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn from 30th May to 16th June. They will also be joined by Ms Diane McFadzien from SPREP and Ms Linda Siegele as Technical Advisors to the delegation.

Ms Ana Tiraa, Director of Climate Change Cook Islands, Dr Teina Rongo, Climate Change Advisor from the Office of the Prime Minister, Ms Dorothy Solomon and Ms Rangī Mitaera from Ministry of Marine Resources will be attending the SPC EU GCCA; PSIS meeting in Niue from the 23rd – 27th June.

Ms Maria Tuoro from CPPO, is off to the 'Strategy on Climate & Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific' (SRDP) meeting in Fiji from Monday 2nd – 4th June and will be joined by Mr William Tuivaga from Climate Change Cook Islands.

SRIC Adaptation Fund Water Tank Project

The SRIC water tank project for Aitutaki, Atiu and Palmerston islands is finally a reality. After a year of wrestling with stakeholders, the tanks have finally arrived and awaiting shipment to their respective destinations. These initiatives evolved from proposals put together by the respective Focal Points on each island following a proposal writing workshop by SPC EU GCCA; PSIS which they undertook in 2013. Focal Points from these islands identified the needs on their respective islands and put in a proposal to the SRIC Programme to alleviate these needs. As a result, the proposals were accepted by SRIC under the management of William Tuivaga the Programme Manager. The final hurdle to the project is the shipment of the water tanks, which according to Pa Enua Officer Robert Matapo will be shipped on the first boat travelling to Palmerston island.

Outboard Motors bound for Rakahanga

Finally, the long awaited outboard motors for Rakahanga has arrived and waiting to be shipped.

The outboard motors were requested by the people of Rakahanga through a proposal from the SRIC Focal Point Mr Nga Takai. The intention of the five outboard motors is to further develop and grow the dry fish industry of Rakahanga. The five villages on the island will each receive one motor to power their locally made wooden boats constructed by the villagers. These wooden boats are specifically designed in response to changing wave conditions experienced by the local fishermen. The initiative is to capitalise on the tuna season, adapt to the changing ocean conditions and provide economic benefits for the villagers that will better prepare them for future climatic changes.

This project is funded by the SRIC Adaptation Fund coordinated by Climate Change Cook Islands.

NES announces winners of the Biodiversity Photo Competition

The National Environment Service has today 'officially' announces the winners of the Biodiversity Competition which was judged on Wednesday.

In total around 25 entries were received for the three categories, Primary, Secondary and Open sections and was judged by 3 judges, the Deputy Director of the National Environment Services, Joseph Brider, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) Kelvin Passfield and CI News Photo-Journalist, Matariki Wilson.

The winners of the competition are as follows:

Primary

- 1st Teivirau Denny – Water + Sun = Life \$200
- 2nd Te Paeroa Denny – Young Chestnut \$150
- 3rd Natana Mataio – Links \$100

Secondary

- 1st Chemanya Mackenzie-Hoff – New Beginnings \$250

Open Section

- 1st Shelly Rangī – Not so native \$300
- 2nd equal Georgia Langdon – Tētē \$200
Nicole Fuchs – Old Man and the Sea \$200
- 3rd Taoi Nooroa – Tangae'ō \$100 (
- 4th Karl Payne – Vai \$50

A People's Choice Award was also held whereby visitors to the photo competition booth on Wednesday selected their chosen photo and was placed into a box. This was later tallied up. The winner of this category was won by Karl Payne – for his photo 'Vai' and he received a cash prize of \$100.

The National Environment Service would like to congratulate all winners and thanks all those who entered this year's competition.

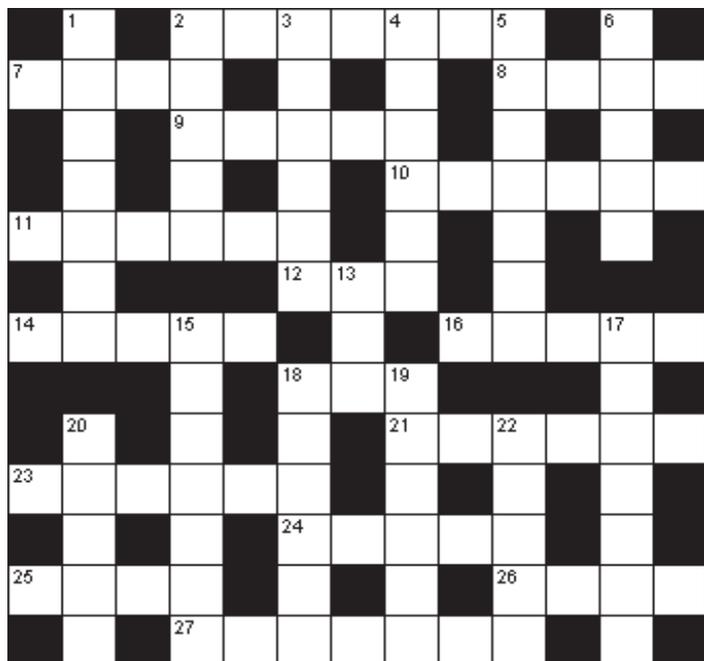
Cook Islanders in NZ up by 7% in 2013

The 2013 NZ Census has revealed that the increases in the largest Pacific ethnic groups were;

- Samoan - 144,000 people, (up 10 per cent),
- Cook Island Maori - 62,000, (up 7 per cent),
- Tongan - 60,000, (up almost 20 per cent).

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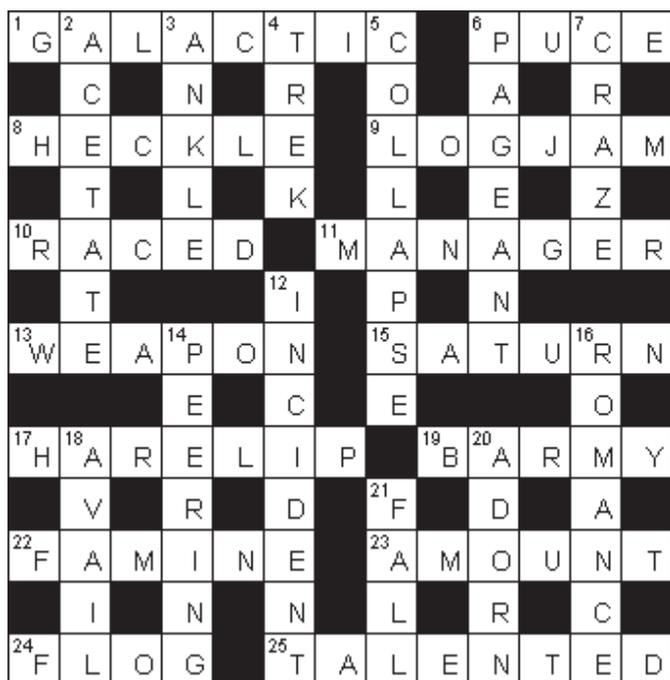


Across

- 2. Person that settles (7)
- 7. Disgusting (4)
- 8. Yellow cheese coated with red wax (4)
- 9. Interior (5)
- 10. Trader (6)
- 11. Hang loosely (6)
- 12. Not wet (3)
- 14. Mounted combat (5)
- 16. Transport (5)
- 18. Attach by stitches (3)
- 21. Flowing out (6)
- 23. Rule (6)
- 24. Large cat (5)
- 25. Enormous (4)
- 26. Female sheep (4)
- 27. Member of a senate (7)

Down

- 1. Vent in the earth's crust (7)
- 2. Toss (5)
- 3. Coloured (6)
- 4. Arrogant (6)
- 5. Boat race (7)
- 6. Worries (5)
- 13. Regret (3)
- 15. Arm coverings (7)
- 17. Gave new title (7)
- 18. Darkening of the skin by sunlight (6)
- 19. Amount a thing weighs (6)
- 20. Counterfeit (5)
- 22. Tree insect (5)



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Maintenance

Use your computers disk management systems. For Windows, select Performance and Maintenance and then choose "Rearrange items on your hard disk..." and "Free up space on your hard disk."

Your computer can grow dusty in less than a year, depending on where it is stored. Open it up depending on how dusty your house is. If it's not too dusty, then check every few months, but if it's super dusty (your house), then be much more proactive about it. Remove the dust on the bottom with a vacuum (or cloth), then spray with compressed canned air. Pay special attention to the CPU heat sink and CPU fan. Hold the fan still while spraying it as you can cause it to spin out and on reboot it may have more noise. Spray the intakes to the Power supply fan also. Since you have the cover off reboot and listen for noisy fans make sure all fans are working. Replace the fan if it stops spinning or starts making unnatural sound or you can try to lubricate the bearing, this might help.

Be careful when plugging in USB, Ethernet, speakers, printer etc. into your computer. Ports such as USB and Ethernet can easily be damaged from careless placement. These repairs can be costly and these ports are a necessity.

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Te Reo Maori

Na Rutera 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
`Ē 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!

Te Reo Maori

Na Rutera Taripo

“Taku Pare Kura – Taku Reo Māori Kia Vai Motukore...”

Tupu mai au i te itingā rā...

Kua takoto taku Reo Māori, i te miti o te kiriā-tai

Kua peke e kua tito`uto`u `ia ē te reo-pōrena e te reo-māroro

Auē... te tangi e...

E... taku iti tangata e..

E... ara... e..ara E... ara!

Kāvea ia te kura ki Orongo

Auē ... tē tangi nei au iākoe `e taku Pare Kura.

Kua marere `ē kua pere`uti`uti ia koe

Tō `uru-kura e taku Pare Kura

Tō `uru-kura, tāku e parau nei, tāku e umuumu nei no tōku tupuranga Māori

Tō `uru-kura, nō tāku peu Māori

Tō `uru-kura, nō taku karakia

To `uru-kura, nō tōku nei Reo tupuna Auē...

Manotinitini te Kī, kua `uri ki te moana

Tē ngaki nei kia tongi ake i te `uare a tōku nei ui-tupuna

Kua kai i te roimata tei moe

Ranga`ia! Taka`ia ki roto i te vari

Vekuveku ei, kia mātiketike, kia mārangaranga

`Inainatea, taupepere o te rauti-para

Rere `ua i te po te Etukura, tokotoko o te ui-tupuna

Ē taku Pare Kura e...

Ē taku Reo tūpuna e....

`Oki mai... `oki mai... `OKI MAI...!!! 2x

Tō `uru-kura nō taku Pare-kura, nō taku Reo Māori

Kia kitea..., nga `inapōtea o tāku nei korero Ai... ia....

Ka tū te `īī, ka tū te vanavana

Taku reo Māori, tātakina ki runga

Taku reo Māori, taku Pare Kura e

Ka tū, ka tū, A E I O U Ai a...

E taku Reo Māori e ...`Oki mai, `Oki mai `Oki mai ...!!!

Awesome series, young squad developing well”

The board of Cook Islands Netball is celebrating the recent Pacific Netball Series.

“It was awesome,” says Netball Cook Islands chair PJ Hockin. “Sure we would have liked to have won the odd game, but it was great to see the growth in our team as the tournament developed.”

“An average of 500 to 600 netball fans and family came each night for 6 nights to watch the 12 games and thoroughly enjoyed a week of spectacular netball from all four teams. I certainly did and I can see that our team is growing in skill and strength. This series was a step up from the Singapore series last year and the developments stand us in good stead for future games.”

“The only sour note has been unfair and unfounded criticism around the final selection of the team. It was always understood that the wider squad of 14 would have to be reduced to 12 to comply with the tournament rules. We carried more players initially to cover players who were carrying injuries, and the Board stands firmly with the selectors’ choice of players who represented us.”

“In the end the vicious personal criticisms from the public (including some parents) strayed well over the line of fair comment into the realm of bringing our sport into disrepute. I hope we’ve seen an end to it.”

“On a positive note the dozens of volunteers who worked tirelessly with the board (also volunteers) stepped up to deliver a top notch tournament that did themselves, the Cook Islands netball fraternity and our country proud. So too did our generous sponsors. Meitaki maata to them and to all who came and watched the games.”

Netball is a long standing and favourite sport of the Cook Islands. It embraces our competitive nature and plays a significant role in promoting health and well-being in our women and young girls.

Young Enterprise Scheme

The Young Enterprise Scheme is a business programme developed by the Young Enterprise Trust, Wellington, NZ, for delivery to secondary school students.

The vision of the Trust is to inspire, educate and transform students through enterprise education.

The Mission of the Trust is to ensure students participate in enterprise education and financial literacy programmes.

The Trust looks to support our Pacific neighbours to grow future generations of enterprising young people in the Pacific region. Tereora College in Rarotonga was chosen in 2013 as the pilot scheme for the Pacific Islands.

Year 13 Business Studies students form teams of approximately 6 students to design a product and bring it to market using business skills such as: Business objectives, Marketing Plans, Market Research, SWOT Analysis, Risk Analysis, Marketing Strategy, Contingency Planning, Human Resources, Production Process, Supply Chain, Financial Forecasts, Break Even Analysis, Cash Flow Forecast, Budget Analysis, Income Statement and Profit.

Is China’s plan to establish a long term presence in the Cook Islands doomed?

By Charles Pitt

Chinese officials will be concerned that once the Te Mato Vai water project ends in 2016, China will no longer have a significant presence in the Cook Islands let alone any reason to be here.

Unless our government undertakes any major projects after Te Mato Vai with Chinese funds, the Cook Islands may become the only Chinese free nation in the Pacific.

Until we repay some of our loans, there will be no applications by our government to the Chinese for major funding.

This presents the Chinese with a road block of sorts the only way around it being to bypass our government altogether and assist our private sector with funding for economic development. We already see signs of this happening when our PM some weeks ago on Radio announced that the eight leaders of Pacific developing nations had agreed to equally split the US\$1 billion China has put up to assist the private sector with economic development. Each nation including the Cook Islands will have access to \$125 million in soft loans.

While no details have been released as yet it is understood the funding may be forwarded by China to the private sector through the Asia Development Bank.

China will be expecting that private sector developments include their contractors and construction companies. Also, the developments will be expected to be sizable—nothing under \$20 million. As far as I am aware there is only one private sector which has proposed a major project around \$300 million in value. This project has already been brought to the attention of the Chinese and our government. The life of the project however is only about 18 months.

In view of the fact there are no plans for any further major infrastructure projects, the Chinese will need to conduct a re-think. Future developments may involve fishing and sea bed minerals. China has a keen interest in both.

Outside Chinese exploitation of our natural resources, there are other possibilities such as;

1. Cross island road from Rutaki to Avatiu involving the last half kilometer in a tunnel. Cost not known. Chinese engineers considered this proposal by Ministry of Works some years ago and concluded it was feasible. At that time the relevant Works Minister said it would enable other roads to open up the centre of the island for agricultural development and also tourism and housing.

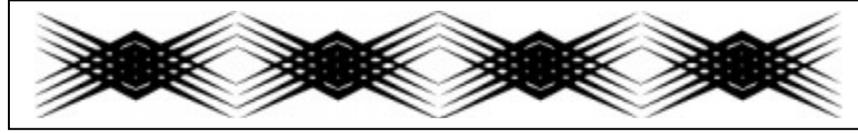
2. New deep water port at Nikao (see article on page 9). Cost \$50m-\$100m. The Chinese have also looked at this proposal.

3. New parliament building. Ministry of Works drew up a plan several years ago, putting the cost at around \$40m.

A fundamental omission from China’s diplomatic bag, is a strategy to win over the hearts and minds of ordinary Cook Islanders. China may have a strategy for dealing with our top politicians at the diplomatic level but their focus needs to be on ordinary people at the domestic level. I have pointed this out previously.

Also, Chinese diplomats have tended to shun local media failing to realize that local media is the conduit by which to promote good relations with the common people. The new Korean Ambassador knows this and spent nearly two hours with Pitt Media Group. He learnt more in that time about local people than from our local diplomats.

TE REO MĀORI



tātāia e Ruterā Taripo

Situation: Waking up, Tidy room, Shower, Dress, Have breakfast, and Ready to go out

| | |
|---|--|
| Kua <u>ara</u> au | <i>I am <u>awake</u></i> |
| Kua <u>ara</u> au i <u>roto</u> i tōku <u>ro`i</u> | <i>I am awake <u>in</u> my <u>bed</u></i> |
| Kā tū mai au | <i>I will get up</i> |
| Kā <u>`eke</u> au ki <u>va`o</u> i te ro`i | <i>I <u>get out</u> of bed</i> |
| Ka `aere au ki te <u>māramarama</u> | <i>I walk to the <u>window</u></i> |
| Ka <u>`e`eu</u> au i te <u>ārai`ē</u> ka `ākara ki vao | <i>I <u>open</u> the <u>curtain</u> and look out</i> |
| Hmm!! `E <u>rā mānea</u> tēia | <i>Hmm!! Today is a <u>nice day</u></i> |
| Ka <u>`akatuera</u> au i te māramarama | <i>I <u>open</u> the window</i> |
| Ka ma`ani au i tōku ro`i `ē ka <u>tāmā</u> i tōku <u>pi`a-moe</u> | <i>I make my bed and <u>clean</u> my <u>bed-room</u></i> |
| Kā <u>rave</u> mai i tōku <u>tauera`ē</u> ka `aere ki te <u>pi`a-pā`ī</u> | <i>I <u>get</u> my <u>towel</u> and go to the <u>bath-room</u></i> |
| Kā rave mai i tōku <u>`uru-ni`o`ē</u> kā <u>`uru</u> i tōku ni`o | <i>I pick up my <u>tooth-brush</u> and <u>brush</u> my teeth</i> |
| Ka <u>pā`ī</u> au | <i>I <u>have</u> a <u>shower</u></i> |
| Ka <u>tāmarō</u> au i āku ki te tauera | <i>I <u>dry</u> myself with the towel</i> |
| Ka <u>`a`ao</u> au i tōku <u>kāka`u`ē</u> ka `a`ao i tōku <u>tāmaka</u> | <i>I <u>dress</u> myself and put my <u>shoes</u> on</i> |
| Kā <u>peru</u> au i tōku rouru | <i>I <u>comb</u> my hair</i> |
| Ka `aere au ki te <u>pi`a-kaikai</u> | <i>I walk to the <u>kitchen</u></i> |
| Ka `akavera au i te <u>tīkatā-vai</u> | <i>I put the <u>kettle</u> on</i> |
| Ka ma`ani `ē kā kai au i tāku <u>kai-pōpongi</u> | <i>I make and eat my <u>breakfast</u></i> |
| Ka ma`ani au `ē kā <u>inu</u> i tāku tī | <i>I make and <u>drink</u> my tea</i> |
| Kā rave mai au i tāku <u>kiri`ē</u> ka `aere ki te ngūtupa | <i>I pick my <u>bag</u> and go to the door</i> |
| Ka `e`eu au i te <u>ngūtupa`ē</u> ka `aere atu ki <u>va`o</u> | <i>I open the <u>door</u> and walk <u>out</u></i> |
| Ka <u>tōpiri</u> au `ē kā <u>roka</u> i te ngūtupa | <i>I <u>close</u> and <u>lock</u> the door</i> |

Au Kupu - Some Words

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| moe | - sleep | ara | - awake | māramarama | - window |
| arai | - curtain | rā mānea | - nice day | `akatu`era | - open |
| ma`ani | - make | tāmā | - clean | pi`a-moe | - bed-room |
| tauera | - towel | pi`a-pā`ī | - bathroom | `uruni`o | - toothbrush |
| `uru | - brush | pā`ī | - shower | tāmarō | - dry |
| tāmaka | - shoes | peru | - comb | pi`a-kaikai | - kitchen |
| rouru | - hair | tīkatā-vai | - kettle | kai-pōpongi | - breakfast |
| ngūtupa | - door | tōpiri | - close/shut | roka | - lock |

Kua rava tēia kaku`anga. `Akamāro`iro`i! `Aere ki mua!

How to live with integrity

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 I noted that there are people around us who are always watching how we behave, to see what kind of a person we are especially when we are Christians or believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. In I 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." People watch to see if we have integrity - meaning Honesty, Truthfulness, Reliability. Peter says that there are 3 things that test our INTEGRITY: (1) TEMPTATION, (2) AUTHORITY, (3) SUFFERING. How we respond to these 3 things will determine whether we are good witnesses for God or not, and whether we have integrity or not. The main Bible reading is in I 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

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. In I Peter 2v.15 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.

2). SUBMIT TO THOSE IN

AUTHORITY FOR THE LORD'S SAKE

Our integrity is tested on how we respond to authority -- people in government, our boss, spiritual authorities like Pastors, and so on. v.14 in our reading reads "For the Lord's sake yield to the people who have authority in this world..." Those in authority are ordained by God. What if the Government tells me to disobey God? Obviously your first allegiance is to God. Submission sometimes means being willing to suffer the penalty for doing the right thing. If there's a law that says "Do this" and you know it's wrong, God says it's wrong.

If you don't obey that law, submission means at that point 'being willing to suffer for doing the right thing'. Your Boss at work is in a place of authority over you. The Bible says that you are to submit and respect your employer (boss). "But you don't know my boss!" Doesn't matter, v.18 reads "Be good servants to your masters -- not only to good masters, but also to bad ones." How's your attitude at work? Does it show your integrity? Do you quietly and gently just accept things that happen or do you complain like everybody else?

3). INTEGRITY IN SUFFERING

The greatest test of all will be our response to Suffering. Nothing reveals our character quicker than problems and pain. That is one of the reasons why God allows it. When you go through suffering it really reveals what you are like. People are like tea bags; you don't know what they're like inside until you put them in hot water. We will always have problems. Fortunately,

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



God gave us a model of how to handle that Suffering with Integrity. v.21 reads "This is the kind of life you've been invited to, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came His way so you would know that it could be done, and also how to do it, step by step." Jesus is our model of how to handle suffering, particularly when we're mistreated unjustly.

Remember that people are watching us to see How We Respond to TEMPTATION, to AUTHORITY, and to SUFFERING. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and praise your Father who is in heaven." May you have a God blessed week - te Atua te aroa.

Scholarship Interview! Kill me now!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Okay. You know, I'm always going on about how important getting a scholarship was for me? Well, I wasn't kidding. During the Term One holiday, almost everybody I knew applied for the Cook Islands Scholarship which is funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme. A representative from the Ministry of Education (MOE) visited us to talk about it and from then on, I was hooked. I mean, I didn't have \$25,000 in my bank account to pay my way through University. Who did? (Unless you were lucky enough to have a part-time job that paid twenty bucks an hour)

From my understanding, there were some things that the MOE would accept and some things that they wouldn't. Engineering and Architecture were not considered to be an option this year because previous applicants will be returning to the Cooks. After hearing this, some people

were really bummed but I was kind of glad that my area (Commerce) wasn't cut out. Then they announced that only five Year 13 students would be picked! Now, I am fiercely competitive when it comes to things that decide my future, so I was determined to be one of the five. DETERMINED!

I'll be honest. I didn't like the idea that I was competing with some of my friends, but hey. That's life. Get over it, Norma. It's one man for himself. After writing up two excruciating essays, I finally handed in my application alongside my fellow columnist, Nadia. I prayed that it would be good enough to get me into the second stage, which is to be interviewed. I raced out of the MOE building as if I were being chased by dogs. In truth, I was just relieved to see it all done. Now, it was just a waiting game.

Then it happened. The miracle. After about four weeks, we all

received a notification from the MOE. At first, I thought I wouldn't get any, but it turns out that my notification just came a tad bit later than the rest. When I opened my envelope, I almost jumped up and did a little victory dance. Little did I know that I would be the very first person to be interviewed by the Panel. Now that is some scary shizz, for real. I also realized that we would be going up against the Year 13 students from last year. Ugh!

When the day of reckoning came, I was mentally and physically prepared. I had my outfit laid out and chose my best fake ei, but I was still a nervous wreck. There was some debate on whether or not I should go in my prefect uniform, but I opted for something more traditional and nice. The letter told us to be there five minutes before our actual interview starts (Well, Justin and



I were almost half an hour earlier lol). When I was called in, I took a really deep breath, straightened my back and walked into the room. When I came out, I was relieved that it was over and I hoped that I'd done my best. I guess I'll find out whether or not it was enough.

Baby it's cold outside

By Nadia George

Man is it cold! Who knew that growing up on a tropical island would bring us this much chills. Its times like these when I wish we could invest in a fire place, but how stupid would that look during summer time right? I mean can you just imagine a house in the Cook Islands with a chimney at the top. It's like seeing an Eskimo in a bikini...it simply just doesn't fit. All weekend I've been cooped up at home, bundled up in my mink blanket all snug and warm, desperately trying to finish up all my overdue homework (ain't nobody got time for homework, that's what schools for), upcoming assessments and even prepping for my scholarship interview for this week. I was actually going to write about my interview experience but didn't want to be too open about it. I'm big on the whole jinx conspiracy.

So anyway back to this

weather, this whole weekend it felt like the weather was having a big fit. One minute its sunny, the next its raining cats and dogs. It's like mother natures way of psyching kids out for the "after's" that were bound to happen on Saturday night. Taking the term, 'raining on someone's parade' to a whole new level really. Even during the day it's cold. You'd think that those bursting hot rays of sun would warm us up just a tad bit, but no! So during school hours I have to sneak around with my hoodie trying so hard not to get caught by teachers but failing terribly because miss Napa knows all and sees everything. "You know the struggle is real when" you've lost your school jacket and can't afford to buy a new one lol. Oh well, I've gone three years with out it, I think I can survive a couple more months of this. It is honestly a mission for me to get out of bed in the morning. Right

now, my bed and blankets are my best friends every time I get up to leave they hug me even tighter and sing their own rendition of Baby its cold outside. (If you've seen the tumbler photo then you'd know what I'm talking about). My friend and fellow student leader Peaches even asked me if I thought id be okay to bring a blanket to school. Damn it why didn't I think of that? But then again, do I really want to be cast out as the weird girl who brings blankets to school? Don't think so. I've even caught the flu, which is not a good thing since our trainings have become really intense. And again I say "you know the struggle is real when" you have to paddle in rough seas and cold conditions such as these. Vacation anyone? Well I don't think I need to reiterate my point across anymore. So lovelies be safe, be warm and stay cool during this chilly season.



Not surprised the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas suspended the unco-operating ICI's Mac Mokoroa but surprised how he did it. Mac's notice of suspension came to him while he was in Fiji in a four Small Island State meeting deliberation over how to divvy up \$5 million of aid funds. Did that mean in the middle of it all Mac had to stop pack his bags and head for home? Apparently Mac sent an email to one of his staff that reduced her to tears and Thomo threw a wobbly and made an emotional decision to wack Mac back.



Last Sunday night's CIP live two hour Radio Cook Islands broadcast was a real shambles, of the four candidates Bulldozer Heta raved on for over an hour giving the others including Elvis Enery barely 10 minutes each to contribute. During Heta's nonsensical talk fest he only got one caller, none other than his devotee and chief advisor Boring Doggs who as expected just added more boring comments to a boring talk show. Most impressive of the lot was new boy Pat Arioker who said the least due to Heta's domineering verbal presence. Most listeners turned off their radios half way through Heta's talkathon and this is the space cadet who is convinced he should be the PM.



It seems the worst kept secret in the Demo camp that their leader Wilkie Rasmussen is headed for the political heap has sparked three others to go on the record claiming they will be the next Prime Minister if they vote for them. Rass has put it to his fellow constituents he will be the first Penrhyn PM and Willie John is going to stand down. Norm is on the record along with Captain T and Amuri's Junior M that they will be the next PM. The Mitiaro lot are claiming Vavia should be the PM due



to seniority and Norm being dumped. Akaoa committee reckon Chopper has the leadership qualities to be top dog, Beer has a leadership following, but all have to win their seats first except for the ex PM Jimmy in Ivirua who may get it because he doesn't want it.



More secrets from the Demo grave, Drolley is ear marked to be Sal's CEO if she's in, the rest of Wilkie's cabinet should they win will be Smiley, Auntie Mau, Vavia and Apii Piho. That's their reward for loyalty and trust, others promised cabinet posts aren't expected to be winners.



With Henry Puna not expected to survive he is trying to secure the seventh seat in cabinet and stay the CIP leader. He could spend his time as Minita of Travel but only by using his huge tally of air points. Elvis also fantasies Heta and Brownie will let him stay on as PM.



Why is the Speaker of parliament still working at parliament? Surely when parliament has been dissolved, the position of Speaker is also dissolved? What say ye Crown Law?



At the international netball last week in the indoor sports stadium while

rain poured down outside, came the announcement not to use the toilets as there was no water! How can this be? Despite the rain, outside the stadium is a gigantic underground water tank!



One hen says she does not want to hear that our netball team is in the process of re-building because it seems they have been re-building for the last ten years. Whatever it is they are building, it must be huge by now so when is the team going to start winning?



Good ole Bim Bim. He's the preferred pick on a two man short list passed to government for the Port CEO job. Bim Bim's already had an extended crack at it and will he be given another go? Biggest challenge is how to raise the dosh to repay the \$28 million loan from the ADB. While the ADB loaned this dosh to our government for less than 1% interest, the government loaned the dosh to the Port Authority for 5% interest. Government gets to make a quid on the side!



Perhaps China will front up the \$50 million needed to construct a new deep water port at Nikao where the parliament is. Perhaps government could

use some of the US\$1 billion put up by China for infrastructure projects. Once the new port is built, the cruise ships will be able to come in and tie alongside. Cruise companies not currently visiting the Cooks will start calling here. And, instead of just one third of the passengers coming ashore, they will all be able to come ashore including the crew. Imagine the increase in revenue for the local economy.



Oh dear chooks! Anyone reading the log of the vessel SS Daily under the command of Commodore Bark du Hey would be surprised to hear from other sources, that there is an election on the horizon! Seems Bark du Hey is one of those old sea dogs from the Elizabethan era who still believes Britain rules the waves and mother England will determine what colonialists read and write!



Is it odd or just coincidence a lot of major work is underway just before an election? Manihiki harbour? Pukapuka airport? Not to mention visits by top overseas officials friendly with this current lot-McCully? The Chinese?



Once our dearly beloved friends from the blessed land of the great wall are through with the big water project in 2016, what is there to keep the Chinese here? Nothing! Therefore, they will cease to have a major presence on Cookie soil. In fact the Cooks will become the only Pacific joint the Chinese will not have their lips around. Do you find that odd? So how will the Chinese ensure they continue to have a presence here? Watch for the Chinese to conclude a deal to undertake a major private sector development which will keep them here for another 18 months at least!

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet are retaining the non MP speaker even though the house has been dissolved!

Maybe there's a phantom Parliament in session!



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government can dissolve Parliament but not the Speaker!

She's not sugar coated?

She's a rock!



VACANCIES



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Applications are invited for the position of Disability Programme Research and Communications Officer, in the Disability Division of the Ministry.

Applicants must be self motivated, to compete all required task in a timely manner.

A good knowledge and understanding of Disability Inclusive Development is preferred. Applications close on 13 June 2014 at 4pm. A full job description is available on request.

Please submit a cover letter with CV and references to: Eva Mapu, PO Box 98, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or email: eva.mapu@cookislands.gov.ck



VACANCY: MARKETING MANAGER

The **South Pacific Tourism Organisation** (SPTO) is the regional tourism organisation mandated to market and develop tourism for Pacific Island countries. SPTO's 17 Pacific Island member countries are: Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, Timor Leste, American Samoa and Vanuatu. The People's Republic of China is also a full member.

SPTO is seeking to recruit a **Marketing Manager**. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, this senior management position will be responsible for developing and managing the organisation's marketing plans, programs and activities for the Pacific region in consultation with our member countries and the private sector.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop SPTO's marketing plans, programs, activities and budgets.
- Supervise, implement and evaluate all the marketing plans, programs and activities
- Plan and coordinate SPTO's and Pacific Islands' participation at key international trade shows, especially in the long haul markets of UK/Europe, USA and Asia.
- Identify and develop niche markets for the special needs of member island countries.
- Provide leadership in the development and implementation of market research programmes.
- Produce annual reports on all the marketing programs in terms of implementations, achievements and strategies on the way forward
- Provide advisory support to the CEO on the organisation's strategic marketing programmes for the region and the needs of member countries.

ROLE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Tertiary qualification in Business Administration, Marketing, Economics and/or other equivalent professional qualifications, a post-graduate degree would be advantageous.
- Must have experience in all aspects of developing, implementing and evaluating marketing programmes, strategies and activities
- Proven experience in strategic marketing and market research
- Demonstrated team leadership skills with vision to steer the organisation's marketing programmes forward.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and have an understanding of the tourism environment in the Pacific region.
- Substantial relevant work experience .

TENURE

The appointment is initially for a term of three years, subject to a one-year probationary period, with the possibility of renewal for another term depending on performance.

REMUNERATION

An attractive remuneration package with benefits will be offered to the successful candidate.

Applications comprising a cover letter, names and contact details of 3 referees and CV should be addressed to: **Marketing Manager Vacancy, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, PO Box 13119, Suva, Fiji** and emailed to rdrakeni@spto.org

ONLY THOSE SHORTLISTED for interview will be contacted.

Applications should be received by close of business on **Monday July 7th, 2014**. For queries email rdrakeni@spto.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MAUKE
ONE COOK ISLANDS MOVEMENT**

In aid of Election and Campaign Expenses for the General Elections

THREE KITS OF ASSORTED FOOD TO BE WON!! VALUED @\$200 EACH

Contact Francis Taoro 55733, Poko Williams 55358, Keta Williams 55359 or Travel Williams 78330

Drawn at Katos shop in Mauke

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Results advertised in the Cook Islands News following Monday after draw

Authorized by Permit Under Section 16 of the Gaming Amendment Act 2007

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



**PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND SURVEY
TE MATO VAI CUSTOMER SIDE LEAKAGE**

The Te Mato Vai project invites Requests for Proposals (RFP) from qualified parties for the Procurement of Services for the Purpose of Investigation and Survey - Te Mato Vai Customer Side Leakage, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

RFP documents will be available from PMU office at the Te Mato Vai Compound, Avarua or from the WATSAN website <http://watsan.gov.ck>, the Pacific Water and Wastes Association website <http://www.pwwa.ws/>, NZ Government Electronic Tenders Service <http://www.gets.govt.nz/> and the Cook Islands Government Procurement website <http://www.procurement.gov.ck/>

Proposals must be delivered to the address below by 12:00pm, (Cook Islands time), 27 June 2014 in a sealed envelope and clearly marked 'TMV-RFP.002/2014 Procurement of Services for the Purpose of the Investigation and Survey - Te Mato Vai Customer Side Leakage':

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

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



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PHOTOGRAPHIC AND VIDEO SERVICES – COOK ISLANDS TOURISM

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation seeks to purchase digital photographic imagery and/or moving footage to be used for the general promotion of the Cook Islands. This is an ongoing project to reach out to all who are interested, both professional and amateur, in the Cook Islands and beyond.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation has a need to provide its products and services in multiple mediums to target audiences in the print and digital space. This includes the outright purchase of rights to your content for online, multimedia, brochures, books, displays and promotional material.

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

You may submit work on any of the following categories:

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

Images and video 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 content 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 content. It is a requirement that all work submitted adheres to technical and commercial image and/or video 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_video-services

Deadline for expressions of interest is 4pm, Wed 25 June 2014.

New Hope Church

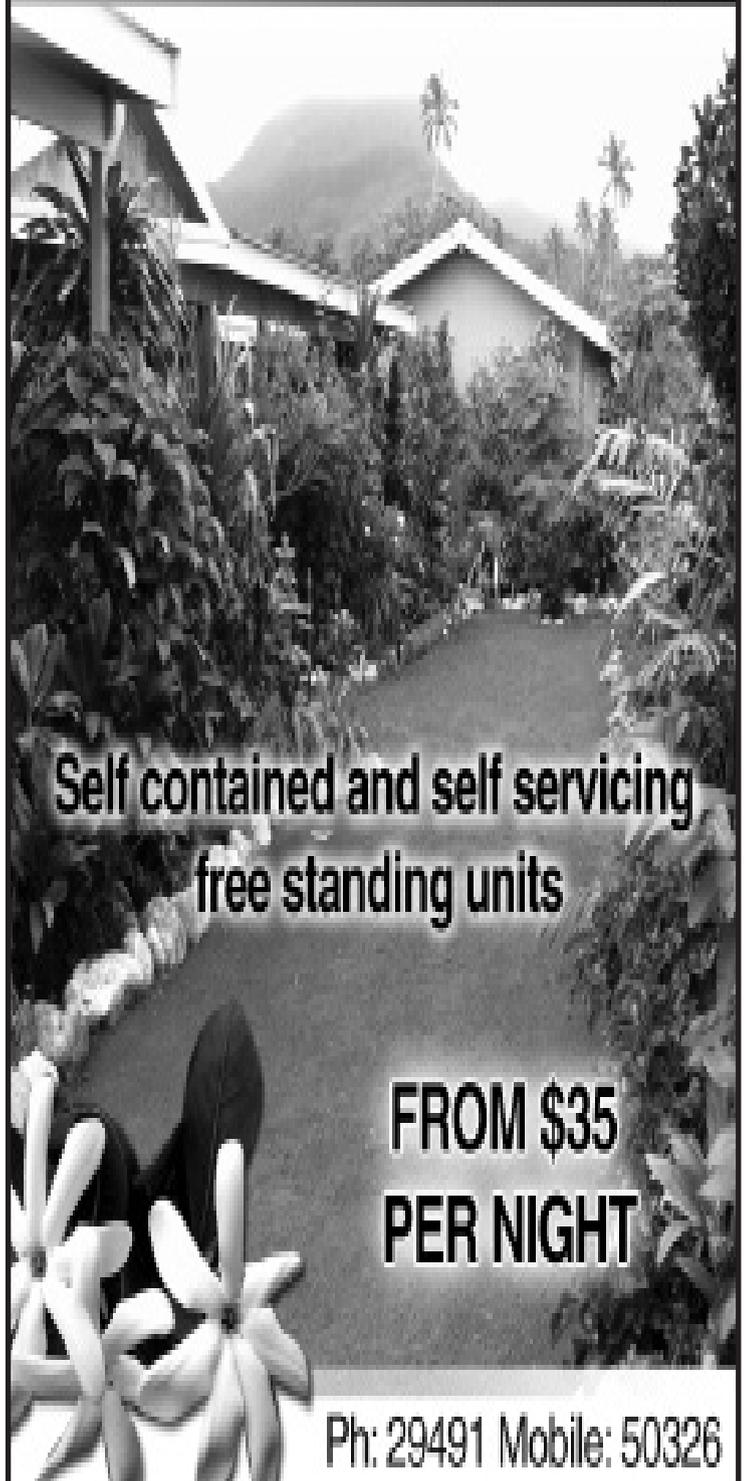
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