

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

8 October 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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38 41

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3 6 15 19 20 23 28

2 31

\$2 MILLION

DPM Heather thinks big on Independent celebrations



If the Minister of Culture the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather has his way the Cook Islands 50 years of Independence celebrations in 2015 will be a spectacle extraordinaire. Heather has a \$2 million proposal is to turn the National Stadium in Tereora into an entertainment centre of

unprecedented proportions. A partially covered removable hi tech stage similar to those used by overseas events promoters is to be erected on the sports field with the capacity to allow for 120 performers to be the focal point. The National Auditorium is limited to 60 on stage performers and

will be redundant during the celebrations next year with all major events being held at the revamped BCI Stadium. The current stadium's terraced seating of about 800 will be increased to a whopping 5,000. From designated parking lots around the island a free shuttle service will transport people to

and from the stadium. Major overseas artists will be invited to perform at the stadium with New Zealand's sensational award winning performer Lorde at the top of the list. In 2012 Irish band UB40 performed in Samoa during their 50th year Independence celebrations. - George Pitt

Junior paddlers do country proud



The junior paddlers from the Nga Kautoa club have done the country proud at the event at Gubbi Gubbi on the Sunshine Coast in Australia. They picked up 20 medals. This is a marvelous achievement for youngsters who had to raise \$50,000 to attend the event and they did it without any government financial contribution. The next question is, will the Minister of Sport recognize this achievement? A reception for the juniors perhaps? See story on page 10.

Budget out of touch with reality

by Charles Pitt

The Budget, a document of immense public interest because of the effect it can have on society, has become inwardly focused.

Rather than being a document which clearly informs on its likely impacts on society, it instead focuses on government's plans and well-being in relation to an artificial set of estimates set by government officials based upon revenue assumptions made by government officials.

The Budget has become a bubble, disengaged from the rest of society, drifting aimlessly and towards no particular destination.

The private sector loaded Budget Committee, it appears, focuses on querying Ministry expenditure items and not on the quality and robustness of revenue estimates. Maybe that's not part of their role.

To people working in a taro patch, the Budget has no direct, obvious relationship to what is happening in their world, the real world. To them it may as well represent "AI" (Artificial Intelligence).

People in the real world, enduring real hardships, probably choke on their nu when they hear of or see in the media, glowing reports by government of surpluses, under expenditure, but see no connection between these matters and what is going on in their personal lives.

The perception is surpluses mean government has more to spend on itself. Government can argue and rightly so, that the Budget keeps essential services alive for everyone's benefit. However, that message is not articulated very well to the common folk. And there needs to be some government justification as to why parents and teachers under pressure to fundraise for basic items required for education? Why are our officials so eager to accept contributions of equipment and resources from visiting Dentists,

Rotarians and overseas health officials? Why doesn't the Budget ensure these necessities are met and any surpluses are used to ease the pressure on parents and the community? The objective should be to make our lives easier not more difficult.

There's a growing sense of financial mismanagement by government. Not in the sense that officials have not performed their statutory tasks diligently but that they have lost their primary focus. Finance officials have become so engrossed in making themselves and their revenue estimates look good, they overlook the fact that their actions can impact negatively on society.

MFEM requires a change of focus from purely concentrating on financial management to ensuring the Budget delivers a cost/benefit to society. At present there are no performance indicators which tell us how well society is performing so that we can determine whether or not the Budget is delivering a benefit to society for the costs (taxes, fees, levies).

When government produces its quarterly report on financial performance to Budget, we should also receive additional reports on the following so as to gain a broader view of the state of society;

1. the average disposable income per household (after all essential expenses have been met)
2. the national rates of unemployment among those actively seeking work (total/male/female)
3. the rates of unemployment per island among those actively seeking work
4. the numbers of persons receiving a benefit, national/per island
5. the cost of a "food basket" containing normal household items
6. the crime rate (this can be influenced by social factors such as unemployment/lack of

funds/alcoholism) broken down into; (a) serious crimes (b) petty crimes (c) opportunist crimes (d) juvenile crime (e) crimes against visitors (d) crimes per island (e) domestic related incidents

7. the number of food parcels distributed each month by Churches and NGOs

8. the current total estimated debt per household as a result of defaulting on government payments for example such as power bills, phone bills, medical bills

9. the current total of private sector accounts not yet paid by government Ministries for services (the private sector cannot pay its workers or its bills until government has settled their accounts)

10. the current number of roadside stalls selling locally produced goods (this is an

indicator of households looking to supplement incomes).

The above information will assist the public to judge for itself whether the Budget has delivered any life improving benefits.

It's one thing to see and be able to use a new wharf, airport, school and road but with a few exceptions, these "dead" items do not put money in most people's pockets.

Surpluses can be returned to the wider public in the form of tax rebates or lower costs for government services. In NZ their governments return surpluses to the public by way of lower tax rates. I'm sure there are many parents can think of many more useful applications for surpluses. For one thing surpluses can finance or subsidize breakfasts for hungry school kids.



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Clumsy Rasmussen botches backdoor coalition attempt

Demos get pickled on government takeover fantasy

Democratic Party Leader Wilkie Rasmussen's foolhardy attempt on Friday 3 October to snatch government from the Cook Islands Party before the 48th session of Parliament sits on 8 October 2014 at 5pm was doomed to fail before his clumsy back door attempt was executed.

The Demos are now the laughing stock of modern Cook Islands politics with their junior partner One Cook Islands embarrassed at Rasmussen's misleading reporting back to the waiting Demo audience which sparked a spontaneous outbreak of victorious euphoria and drinking. By the end of the next day Saturday, Opposition Office CEO Eddie Drollet had either text or rung all the Demo punas to inform them they were the government. By Monday the 6 October, Acting Demo Leader William Heather in a media statement foolishly refuted any such celebrations took place on the Friday evening.

Drollet's premature declaration to the Party faithful triggered an avalanche of phone calls to and fro on Rarotonga and outer islanders to Rarotonga Members of Parliament wanting confirmation of the change of government. The daily paper

reported this out of control hyped misinformation as rumours when they were being propagated by the Demo machinery as factual and accurate news.

Moments after the news of the change of government was posted on line by the Demos, there was a rush of responses from Cook Islanders in Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly for the Demo believers the reality of being deliberately misinformed by the desperate Wilkie Rasmussen began to sink in on Sunday as Radio Cook Islands began nationally broadcasting a CIP media release contrary to the Demo takeover from midday. On Monday further embarrassment and ridicule was heaped upon the deluded Demos when the CI News headline story reinforced the Demo claims of being the government were fantasy.

Rasmussen must now accept responsibility for the Demos being stewed in a political melting pot of rhetoric confusion.

On Monday 6 October, local journalist Helen Greg in an interview with Richard Ewart on Radio Australia reported, "Now the Democratic Party is negotiating a coalition which would see Bishop become the next Prime Minister". The full interview was posted on the



Official Secretary to the QR Anthony Brown

Radio Australia website under the heading: Teina Bishop tipped as next Cook Islands Prime Minister.

At a meeting of the Demo caucus and Party Officials on Monday, Acting Leader of the Opposition William Heather said Rasmussen apologised for the misunderstanding and misinterpretation of information and subsequent response from the Head of State, His Excellency Tom Masters that prompted the premature celebrations. When asked if Rasmussen took

responsibility for the debacle Heather said no comment.

Over the weekend several versions surfaced of what happened between the QR, and the two person delegation who visited him. The CIP version is, when Rasmussen presented the signed document of proof the Demo/OCI coalition commanded the numbers to be government; the QR's reaction without reading it was to tell Rasmussen to resolve what they were attempting to do

continued next page

in Parliament as he had already summoned Parliament.

The Rasmussen version delivered about 5.30pm on Friday 3 October at the Opposition Office to a highly expectant waiting audience that sent them into a rapturous frenzy was that the QR acknowledged the coalition had the majority to govern; the Prime Minister would be advised to stand down or be dismissed by the QR. Rasmussen also told the gathering the QR was very emotional shedding tears about the state of the CIP and that he was not happy with Henry Puna and was very critical of the PM to them.

Drollet's widely distributed text to constituency chairmen and committee members went viral when it got forwarded to others many times over, some received it as much as four times from different sources, it basically stated, the QR accepts the signatures and the Demos have a majority and Puna will be advised to stand down as PM.

While the Demo faction of the coalition were misled to believe by Drollet that Rasmussen had 13 signatures to present to the QR they in fact only had 12 names with signatures.

Much was discussed in the coalition meetings how crucial the execution of the process to change government was, but it was unsuccessfully carried out by Rasmussen in a manner conservatively described as clumsy, unprofessionally and naive.

Rasmussen is a slow motion

train wreck that has the resilience of a cockroach. Rasmussen's self inflicted exit is now assured but by which route? With only Titikaveka's MP Selena Napa hanging on as his sole supporter among the MPs elect in the hope an Electoral Appeal will overturn his failed petition, Rasmussen's slippery grip of the Party Leadership as a non MP is fast losing traction.

Rasmussen's dictatorial style of leadership will not be missed; it has failed him and almost wrecked the Democratic Party. His coalition execution was so inept, even with no obstacles or opposing forces Rasmussen still botched up, with a clear unobstructed run to the line he tripped up.

OCI President George Turia said he was disappointed with the Acting Leader of the Opposition William Heather's CI News comments on Monday, "If the results were as we all wished, the Demos would be taking the credit but they are now quick to wipe their hands of what has transpired."

In response to questions posed to the Official Secretary to the Head of State Tony Brown, he said the coalition delegation failed to observe the conventions and protocols for engagement with the QR.

For a start, there was no confirmed appointment to meet with the Head of State. All official business and appointments are made through the Official Secretary.

Rasmussen turned up to the

private residence of the QR in Arorangi where the coalition presentation was made. All official business must be conducted at the Official residence of the Head of State in Titikaveka in the presence of the Official Secretary who witnesses and minutes the meeting. At both entrances to the official residence there is a sign that states, Admission by Appointment.

There were no witnesses at the meeting with the QR at his private residence; therefore no official business was conducted explained Brown. "Attempting to change government is a very serious matter that His Excellency Tom Marsters the Head of State as the Queen's Representative must conduct in the most professional manner and according to our conventions," stated Brown. "There can be no backdoor official business conducted at his private residence."

Based on Brown's explanation, it is assumed the QR offered no official advice to Rasmussen except to unofficially suggest the matter be resolved in Parliament. Brown said the QR is not responsible in any way for the misrepresentation of information presented by Rasmussen to the Democratic Party afterwards. "There is no way Rasmussen can pin any of this embarrassment on His Excellency Tom Marsters, the QR has acted in the highest interest of the Country with impeccable integrity".

A CIP source said after Rasmussen had left; the QR contacted the PM Henry Puna

and warned him that the Coalition partners were gathering the numbers to topple him.

Drollet's lack of attention to detail and failure to brief his leader on the protocols related to official engagement with the QR and Rasmussen's inability to distinguish fact from fiction along with his incompetent handling of the execution process once again exposes their inept leadership ability and without damaging Party any further they should profusely apologise for bringing the Demo Party into disrepute by knowingly disseminating misleading information then quietly remove themselves from their over bearing self driven efforts to control the MPs elect.

An American officer is supposed to have said about a famous battle in Vietnam that, in order to save the village, he had to destroy it. Rasmussen may be applying the same logic to the Demos.

In the mean time a small group of Demos distancing themselves from Rasmussen and Drollet have not lost hope but have regrouped and remain focused and determined to oust the Henry Puna CIP government.

Confident he has a firm hold as the Prime Minister, Henry Puna in an interview with Radio New Zealand on Tuesday 7 October claimed his Cook Islands Party remains solid and he denies there is a constitutional crisis. Rumours last week of internal splits in his Party are gossip fuelled by a core of Democrat insiders.

- George Pitt

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Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model for this week is Calen Morris who is the son of Tom Wynn. He is in Raro for holiday. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Tourism strategy needs to be inclusive and comprehensive

By Charles Pitt

Tata Crocombe's recent comments in the media stressing that investment was required in the tourism industry if it was to continue to be the leading source of the country's income, are spot on however it is the nature and scope of that investment which he did not elaborate on.

The aim suggested previously by past Economic Taskforces, was to increase visitor numbers from 120,000 per year to around 150,000 per year. However, what we need to avoid is attracting more of the same type of visitor we have been attracting.

While visitor numbers have been increasing moderately each year (around 6% per year) visitor spending is not increasing significantly. This is because we have focused our marketing efforts on the budget traveler which makes us vulnerable to more attractive offers by other Pacific players like Fiji and now increasingly Samoa. Samoa now has a casino and Niue is emerging as an alternative destination.

We are not going to prosper financially off the backs of budget travelers. Budget travelers are now turning to the cheaper option of renting private homes. Great for the home owner but not so great for the hotels who face high labour and financial costs.

We must not allow ourselves to become a backwater for a deluge of low spending, cost querying, nit picking, budget travelers. Future development needs to target the higher class of visitor like the five and six star visitor. Sure there will be fewer of these but they will spend more. These visitors will come if we have the accommodations to attract them. We certainly have the sights.

With the benefit of hindsight, it's fair to say development within the industry has not been coordinated, it is not strategic, it lacks direction and it is not inclusive. Consequently, development has been disjointed, piecemeal, fractured, non-inclusive and unpredictable.

Various governments have with the help of outside consultants, experimented with various strategies (eco-tourism) which have since collapsed. Due to costs, it is suspected the majority of the framework of our tourism industry (hotels, services, employment) is under foreign ownership.

One could almost say we have lost control of "our" tourism industry. Government needs a new vision for the industry and a clear idea as to where the industry is headed. However it firstly needs to acknowledge who the beneficiaries should be. The so called "trickle down" theory has failed Cook Islanders.

A new approach is needed if locals are to take charge and reap the benefits. A new strategy targeted at the higher end earner and which is "inclusive" and economically "comprehensive" would ensure benefits flow right down to the "little people."

An inclusive industry would involve the participation and ownership of developments as "joint ventures." A framework which legally ties in landowners, local island councils, the aronga mana and which guarantees employment for locals and a thriving servicing capacity owned and run by locals.

An economically comprehensive industry is one which forms linkages with and advances local supporting industries and local services. Establishing a framework which binds agricultural development with tourism development at a contractual level is needed. At present, hotels like everyone else must take pot luck with local fruit and vegetables and purchase higher priced imports when local supplies run out. Hotels have established their own in-house services to maximize returns for overseas owners rather than utilize local services.



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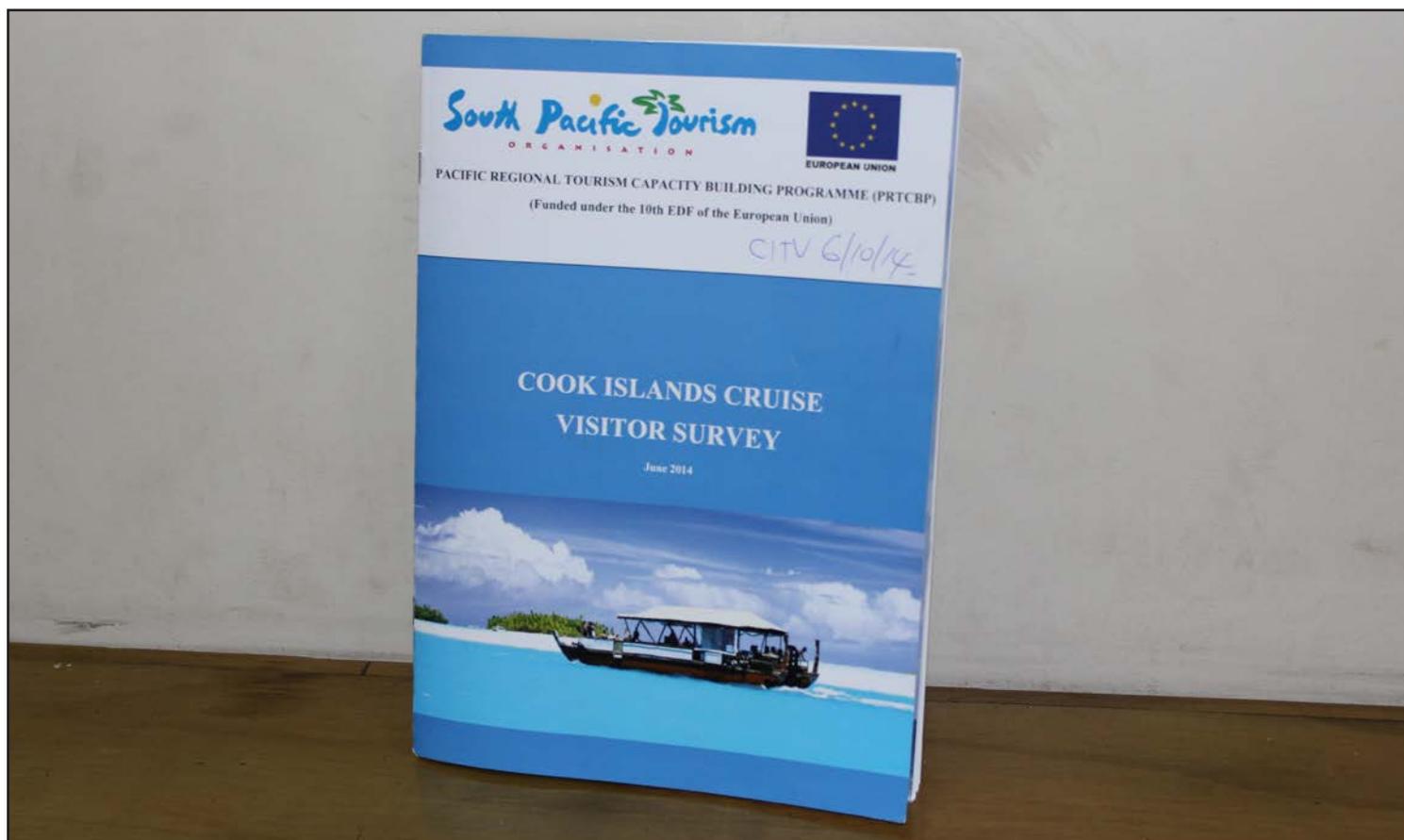
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Tento Toilet Tissue



\$1.00 each

Cruise survey worthwhile, informative



By Norma Ngatamariki

On Monday 6th, a presentation was held at Club Raro to display the results of the South Pacific Tourism Organisation Cook Islands Cruise Survey. This survey was funded by the Pacific Regional Tourism Capacity Building Program (PRTCB) and was initiated by the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation.

Chief Executive Officer, Halatoa Fua, says that this survey will assist our nation in obtaining a better understanding of the cruise liner industry and how beneficial it is for Cook Islands tourism. "We are committed to making further improvements with regards to this, as seen with the construction of the Arorangi Jetty and improving infrastructure of the Avatiu Wharf." Fua also comments that there is to be an upgrade to current facilities, such as the building of a new hut to serve

as a waiting place for cruise passengers.

Manager of Research and Planning for the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) Lennox Futi, who is based in Vanuatu, presented the results of the survey. From the months of January to May, a total of 447 cruise visitors were surveyed. It was discovered that 32% of our cruise visitors came from the United States and 46% of these visitors fell in the age group of 64+.

Two-thirds of these cruise visitors opted to take a shore excursion. On Rarotonga, the most popular shore excursion activity was the Round Island Tour, which accounted for 39.4% of the excursions, followed by the lagoon cruise, which was 16%. On Aitutaki, the lagoon cruise was the most popular excursion activity (45.2%) followed by the Round Island Tour (28.7%). The excursions for both islands received excellent ratings from

the cruise visitors.

On Rarotonga, the average spending per visitor (in the local currency) was \$91. This can be further broken down to \$33 for shore excursions, \$16 for black pearls, \$11 for food and beverages, \$10 on clothing and \$9 for local handicrafts. On Aitutaki, the average spending per visitor was \$72: \$41 for shore excursions, \$17 for food and beverages, \$6 on local handicrafts and transport. The survey also revealed that first-time visitors spent more than those who have already visited our shores.

Overall, 7.3 out of 10 visitors for Rarotonga and 7.4 out of 10 visitors for Aitutaki found their trip enjoyable. However, 3.3 out of 10 visitors for both Rarotonga and Aitutaki said that they would return for a land based holiday. The reason for this remains unknown at this point and will require more analysis of the data.

One issue that was brought up during the presentation was the Sunday cruises. Patricia, an enumerator who assisted the Cook Islands Tourism Office and SPTO in conducting the survey, stated that there were a large number of visitors who were disappointed with the lack of activity. "There could have been a better briefing on the actual cruise ship on the situation. They didn't see the usual lively atmosphere."

Another issue raised was the communication barriers between German visitors and the local tourism staff. "There was a significant difference between German visitors and American visitors, who are English speakers. We didn't receive as great a response from the Germans as we did with the Americans. There are gaps we have yet to fill."

Participants and contributors to this survey stated that it was worthwhile and very informative.

CIFWA youth camp



The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) will be holding a youth camp for people preferably aged between 17 and 26 years. This will be run on the 25th and 16th of October. Participants will be taught how to run activity based learning programs as well as participate in fun activities run by CIFWA.

If you are interested in volunteering, working with young people and being a youth peer educator, CIFWA wants you! If you are passionate about youth issues and are looking for something new, CIFWA wants you! If you want to be part of a youth group that uses fun and innovative ways to help other young people in the Cook Islands,

then CIFWA wants you!

For information, feel free to contact the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association on phone- 23420 or email them at- cooksfa@oyster.net.ck or better yet, pop in and see the team at their office located in Tupapa across the road from the Ministry of Health. Sign up and register now. - *By Nadia George*



CIFWA Golf Ambrose Fundraiser

The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) is holding a Golf Ambrose fundraiser in aid of future CIFWA activities and resources as well as any further community projects and programs that CIFWA may be hosting. The fundraiser will be held at the Rarotonga golf club on the 31st of October at 4.30PM. There will be lots of awesome prizes as well as spot prizes for best-dressed participants up for grabs, with the theme for the event being "Get your Halloween on". To register your team of six people for only \$150, contact the Cook Islands Family Welfare team on phone- 23420 or email on- cooksfa@oyster.net.ck or better yet pop into their office located in Tupapa across from the Ministry of Health and see the team today. Please come along and show your support. -*By Nadia George*

Gubbi-Gubbi experience

Junior paddlers bag 20 medals

By Nadia George

Yes I am back readers and what an amazing week it has been. I've decided to base my column for this week on my O for Awesome trip to Australia. There are literally no words to describe how much I loved my trip. The early mornings, the long eventful days, the not so tasty meals (tbh) and lets not forget the free three extra days of chill time that we had.

Our trip started off with a long eight hour haul to the coast after leaving our shores and having an over nighter in Aotearoa. Honest the flight was build-ups, we were all separated from each other and the movies weren't all that great. My first impression of the coast was one of disappointment (tbh). I guess its because I was expecting something similar to Surfers Paradise in the GC but instead I was greeted with dull brown grass and the scorching hot sun and don't even get me started on our accommodation. Snakes, y'all, there were snakes! Not that I saw any but the fear of knowing that they were there scared me silly.

Anyway, the three-day races started on day one with V1 and OC1 races. My gosh they were hard. Our whole team was up against people who have been paddling for years and some of us hadn't even done a proper paddle in a single before. But I am so proud that everyone still powered through the challenge ahead of them and took part in the events anyway, making our entire Gubbi Gubbi experience that much more special. Big ups to my whole team for their great effort and an even bigger shout out to my friend Otea Tommy who was outstanding in his singles performance for



day one. Making it to the final heats of all his races, Otea paddle his heart out and did the best he could do.

Day one wasn't the best event day for our team but we had achieved our goals that we had set out for us on the day. Goal #1, don't come last. Goal #2 don't flip of capsizes. Goal's achieved. We're not ones for high expectations in our team, the participation certificate

is good enough for us lol, not coming last is a bonus.

Day two came as a surprise for us all, a welcomed surprise at that, as we had walked away with twenty, yes twenty, bronze medals in total. Expectations, exceeded! I even got to walk away with two bronze medals to my name for the under 19 girls and 21 mix sprints with turns. That on top of everyone else's amazing performance

was the icing on the cake for me really. With Ioana being the stand out for the day. I'm sure you all know Ioana right? Amazingly talented girl with a beautiful voice. Even with a sore shoulder and an energy level of 0%, she still got in the boat and steered in every single race she was registered for. Can anyone say champion?

To be continued in next week's Herald...





Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani

The Hereditary Kings and Queens of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands



Makea Joseph Vakatini Ariki

Arataki Ikiia

Avarua, Rarotonga.

26th September 2014

c.c. His Excellency Hon Tom Marsters
HM Queen's Representative

Rt Hon Henry Puna (DBA) Prime Minister

Private Mail Bag,
Avarua, Rarotonga,
Cook Islands.

Dear Rt Hon Henry Puna,

As you are aware, Letters Patent was signed into the Law on, Monday 31st March 2014, Revoking all Protectorates and Letters Patent issued by the Sovereign Monarchs of the United Kingdom, namely Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, inclusive of all Rights, Powers and Authorities thereof, thereto and therein, came into Force on Sunday 6th April 2014.

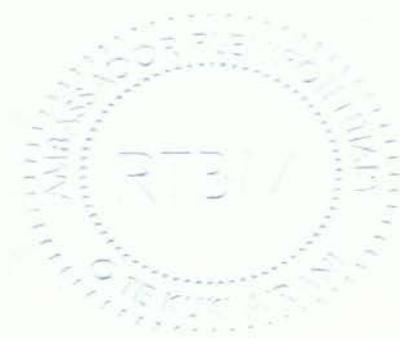
The Prime Minister, together with your Cabinet Ministers and Government, have chosen to ignore these Our Letters Patent. In view of the same, a Penalty of Not Less than, One Hundred and Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Australian Dollars (AUD\$104,200,000.00) per day shall apply until the Prime Minister and your Government acknowledges the same and stand down.

Now-therefore, attached hereto is:

Invoice No's: TUANTOKA0053 for AUD\$729,400,000.00 for the period from the 22nd September to 28th September 2014, for choosing to ignore Our Letters Patent.

Should you wish to discuss these matters, in the first instance, please contact my Personal Assistant, Mrs Louisa Savage-Taylor by email at loulu@unseen.is or via Mobile: 79673, to make an appointment.

Your sincerely,



for: Makea Joseph Vakatini Ariki
for: Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani

PO Box 0032 , Muri, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

TE UI ARIKI NGATEITEI O TE KUKI AIRANI INVOICE

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Muri, Rarotonga
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TO:
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The Cook Islands Government
Private Bag, Avarua
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INVOICE NUMBER TUANOTKA 00000053
INVOICE DATE 26th September 2014
DEFAULT NOTICE: TUANOTKA 00000053
REFERENCE NO: TUANOTKA 00000053
TERMS OVER DUE
AGENT/REP: Ruatapu
DESPATCH VIA: EMAIL / RR POST
DESTINATION: Rarotonga, Cook Islands
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QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
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		SUBTOTAL AUD	\$ 729,400,000.00
		TAX	0.00
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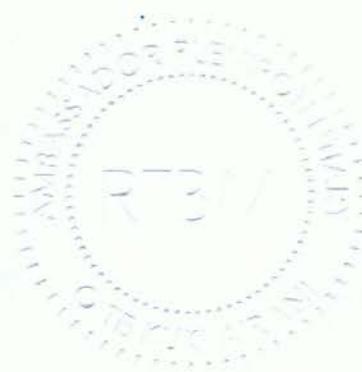
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Muri, Rarotonga
COOK ISLANDS

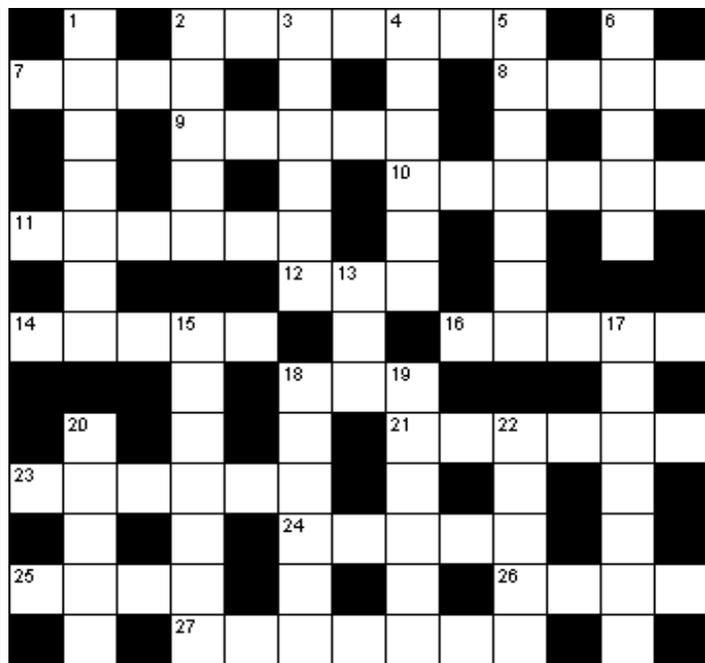
AUD: \$729,400,000.00
PAY THIS AMOUNT AUD

Cook Islands Government Outstanding Debt to Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei. AUD: \$ 186,742,200,000.00
Outstanding Debt PM & Cabinet: AUD \$ 20,575,000,000.00
Outstanding Debt of MFAI: AUD \$ 8,180,000,000.00
Cook Islands Government Total Outstanding Debt Due: AUD \$ 215,497,200,000.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



CROSSWORD

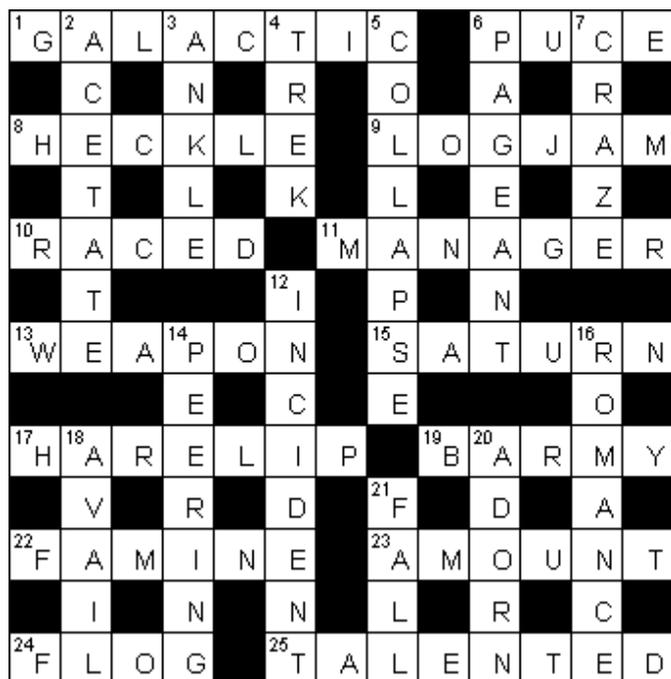


Across

- 2. Favourable termination of endeavours (7)
- 7. Remedy (4)
- 8. Slay (4)
- 9. Loses heat (5)
- 10. Not done (6)
- 11. Small purple plum (6)
- 12. Turf (3)
- 14. Infested with lice (5)
- 16. Tree covered land (5)
- 18. Pigpen (3)
- 21. Superior of a convent (6)
- 23. Adherent of Islam (6)
- 24. Card game (5)
- 25. Thin stratum (4)
- 26. Drink greedily (4)
- 27. Requital (7)

Down

- 1. Back pain (7)
- 2. Cults (5)
- 3. Buffoons (6)
- 4. Followed (6)
- 5. Snow vehicle (7)
- 6. Mix smoothly (5)
- 13. Often (3)
- 15. Ultraviolet lamp (7)
- 17. Garbage can (7)
- 18. In a simple manner (6)
- 19. Federal soldier in the US Civil War (6)
- 20. Purchaser (5)
- 22. Rupture (5)



Handball: Update of competition Round 6 on Tuesday 30th September

Round 6 results from Tuesday 30th September 2014 definitely turned up the heat in regards to our Handball competition as there is still 9 weeks left and we are currently holding the Telecom Cook Islands Business House now.

Congratulations to Belma Ngatoko for receiving the player of the night. These are selected and presented by the staff and TCI team whenever the opposition plays them. So ensure peeps your playing in the opposing team.

Game 1- Justice League 15vs Legends 21. The first games are always the slow starters it's pretty hard to understand when it starts at 5.45pm. Amazingly the men turn up on time eager to play. But without a good warm up what else could you expect? The Duet of Ben Tautu and Olaf Rasmussen always consistent with their goals nailed 4 each this game with Charlie Cowan and Terrence registering 1 on late arrival. This saw Justice League trailing on 9 to 10 at half time. Legends gained many enthusiastic players with Alfred Marsters 9 goal contribution and Cruz Robati's 4 goal addition. But DaimzelRongokea one of two female players slammed in 3 eye-raising goals to give her team Legends (21)the win over Justice Leagues (15) and its good to see Lavinia Rasmussen back on court and teaming with Maybeline.

Game 2 Avengers 24 vsTMkz 15. Cruz on 7 points and Phillip on 5 for Avengers with most of the 14 person team of TMKz scoring a goal each. Half time score was 7 to 13 with Justice League leading. Tim Nubono came out of goal keep to have a feel of play while we saw the talented Murry Wilson in action under a handball goal instead of a soccer goal. It was an exciting game although Avengers did a lot of fast breaks to seal their victory. Well done everyone.

Game 3 PJs 16 and No Experience TCI 25It was the first time to see our national under 20 mens and under 19 womens team to finally become moulded. This gave the TCI team a good incentive to register a good win. You could see the gaps with our national players play and they need lots of fine tuning. Most important rule is to commit and discipline yourself for representation. But most importantly turn up to trainings. This was a rude awakening for them. Although the team is a very young one I am sure with some nurturing they will sync in time. Well done to Lucky Makirere who slammed 13 goals in this game and although he is the Head Coach playing his team he had an good analysis of what and who needs to be fixed. Tofiga scored another goal and is becoming noticeable when he scores. But the end result saw PJs 16 with No Experience TCI winning 16 to 25.

Since most of our players are gone to the Manea Games this will leave a lot of gaps in other teams. So I suggest if you want to get your sweat going come up earlier so we can put you in the team before the rest get back in two weeks time. Meitakimaata to those who come to support and to those who come and play.

Draw for Tuesday 7th October 2014 is as follows:

- Game 1 - 5.45pm –TMKzvs PJs
- Game 2 – 6.35pm – Justice League vs Avengers
- Game 3 – 7.25pm – Legends vs No Experience TCI

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

Mitiaro – Raui Itiki

By Tiana Haxton

The island of Mitiaro is home to the largest lake in the Cook Island. This beautiful lake is home to a Cook Island delicacy,

Itiki (Eels).

'Rau' translates to 'Conservation' or 'Protection'.

October 1st arrived warm and sunny...

We, students and teachers had planned to meet at the community hall where a truck would be waiting to carry us to the site where the 'Rau' opening would be held.

Students who had not already travelled with their parents soon jumped onto the truck and off we went.

We drove inland to where there is marshland covered with kotikoti-rau-matangi (Marsh grass) and where pistite trees stand tall and line the roadsides. It was expected that many people with their many motorbikes and a few trucks crowding the road would be observed.

Once students, teachers and the attending public were seated, the 'orometua's (Pastors), were called to sit at a table facing us with their backs to a mysterious sign covered with 'kikau' (palm fronds).

Makara Murare, a councilman, stood up and addressed us with welcome and thanks. He asked an orometua to say the opening prayer and with beautiful harmony the community lifted their voices in song. Topical speeches by select members of the public were made and dare I admit, I began to feel hot and bothered sitting in the burning sun.

Ui ariki (Kings/Queens/Chiefs) representing three distinct Matakeinangas (clans), were given the honour of unveiling the official sign. One to two of the Ariki(s) could not attend the Rau opening and in proxy, there were representatives. Mrs Nane Hodgson was called upon to read the sign out aloud.

Essentially, a ban on all eel fishing has been made at any and all eel habitats. 'Anyone committing a breach of the above directive will be prosecuted in court under the 'Island Government Act 2013' with a



penalty not exceeding \$2,000.00 and along with other fines the Court may impose under the 'Mitiaro Environment Services' and the 'Cook Islands Quarantine Services Acts.'

Commencing date: 1st October 2014

Expiry date: 4th April 2016'

A Pastor then blessed the Rau before grace was said inviting us all to tuck into the scrumptious food that lay spread out over three long tables. We could then head to school, work or home.

As is, there are two pro-active conservation efforts being practised here presently; 'The Eels' and 'The Creatures Of The Sea'. Notably, 'Spear Fishing' has been banned along the western front of the island. This is where our harbour is; on the sunset side; where a sign is already in place.

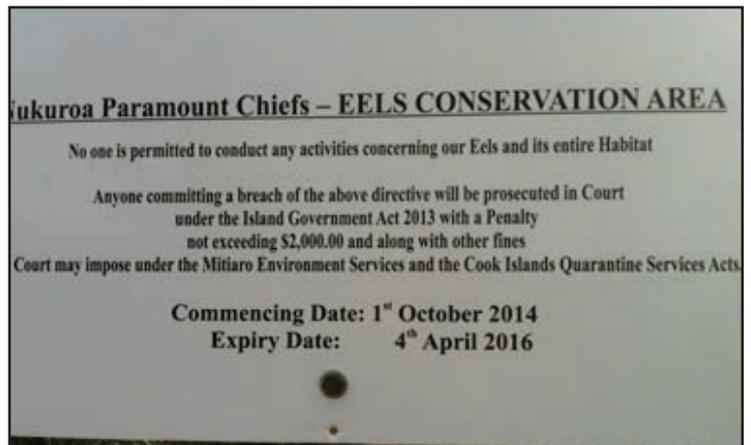
"Nukuroa Fishing Club – Notice

'Spear Fishing' is Prohibited from 'Oponui' to 'Raro I Te Vai'

Commencing Date: 1 s t October 2014

Expiry Date: 1st October 2015."

All in all, there are up and coming event(s) for the people of Mitiaro to prepare for and to host. We as a community, look forward to 'the Cook



Islands Youth Convention'. This is planned for 2016. We need to Taokotai (work together) to ensure these species thrive and are abundant to be caught to feed 'manui' (visitors) at

these high esteem occasions; to ensure traditional food provision is made.

Itiki Tu,
Itiki Ta,
Itiki Tapaepae

SPC to assist with new Tuna regulations



By Norma Ngatamariki

On Monday 6th, a formal meeting was held at the request of Minister of Marine Resources, Mona loane to discuss the implementation of new regulations regarding our tuna. Secretary of Marine Resources, Ben Ponia, speaks to the Herald on this issue. "We have recognized the need to control our fishing catch within our EEZ." Ponia places emphasis on the importance of addressing this matter immediately as there are no limits to fishing catches with the current regulations in place. According to Ponia, the Cook Islands is one of the first Pacific nations to take on this initiative. "The rate of fishing is too high." According to Ponia, a lot of technical working involved in this and, as such, the Ministry of Marine Resources has requested the assistance of SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and FFNZ (Foreign Fisheries of New Zealand) Minister of Marine Resources, Mona loane, says that change is necessary. "With new



technology being introduced, it makes marine conservation much easier."

Alice McDonald, a representative of FFNZ, has established a working connection with the Ministry regarding the implementation of a Quota Management System. "This is a good way to limit the amount of catch

that fishing boats are entitled to. In this way, conservation of your local marine species is ensured." The Quota Management System is not a simple process, as it will require a significant change to current licensing policies and regulations. It will also assist in maximising the value of marine resources. Observation,

reporting and documentation the results of this system will be followed through.

Ben Williams of SPC, is here to provide technical advice to the Ministry on the equipment needed and the appropriate data recording processes. "SPC appreciates the Ministry requesting our involvement. We were happy to oblige."

Climate change workshop



By Norma Ngatamariki

With climate change being a major concern for the nation, the Climate Change division of the Prime Minister's Office has now taken the initiative to hold a workshop to discuss the finer details of implementing strategic steps to tackle this issue. Rob Matapo, a representative of SRIC and active participant, shares his views with the Herald. "The main purpose for this workshop is to strengthen the resilience of the Cook Islands to climate change and to change the lifestyles of our people in order to adapt to this goal." According to Matapo, there are five focal points for this workshop: Rakahanga, Mangaia, Mitiaro, Nassau and Aitutaki. "All fifteen islands are focal points, but only these five were able to attend the workshop."

"The workshop will be based on the sharing of knowledge, both old and new, so that we may be able to take this newfound knowledge to our homes." By the end of the workshop, representatives from these five islands will have completed a proposal which will then be presented to their

respective Island Councils. Presentations will be delivered by various divisions of the Government, such as Agriculture, Health, Marine Resources as well as the Meteorological Office. "This component is mandatory, so that everybody will have gained the necessary knowledge to incorporate within their proposals."

Topics covered in the workshop will include food and water security and sustainable resource management. One difficulty that must be overcome is transportation. "In order to instigate these strategies, we need resources. But finding a means to transport these resources is proving difficult, since mobility in the Northern Group is limited." Matapo also mentions that one of the steps taken towards this initiative is installing water tanks for islands in the Northern Group, which will help alleviate the effects of drought.

The workshop will be running for five days, starting on Monday 6th October to Friday 10th October at the New Hope Church Hall, Parekura.

Media Association AGM elects new executive

By Charles Pitt

At their AGM on Tuesday morning, held at the Café in the Beachcomber, members of the Cook Islands Media Association elected their new executive.

The executive, which will hold office until 30 September 2015, is as follows;

President: Charles Pitt

Vice President: Jaewyn McKay

Secretary: Helen Greig

Treasurer: Merita Wi-Kaitaia

Members: Noeline Browne, Maria Tanner, Mahiriki Tangaroa, Josh Baker, Trevor Pitt, William Framhein.

A Patron is yet to be appointed.

The executive will meet on 4 November 2014 to set the Association's programme for the coming year.

Any person working in the media industry or who previously worked in the industry may join the Association upon payment of the annual fee of \$10. Contact any member of the executive for more information.



Blame for state of local tuna industry falls at government's door

By Charles Pitt

The recent letter to the Editor from Ocean Fresh concerning the state of the local tuna industry and the impact of foreign fishing vessels supplying the local market outlines a genuine concern which warrants an enquiry. However, it needs to be an enquiry into the failure of government to develop the local tuna industry.

The foreign tuna fishing company Huanan which is a subsidiary of Luen Thai Fishing Ventures Ltd, has been offloading tuna locally at the request of local retailers to meet a public demand. The current fishing regulations allow the offloading of by-catch but not tuna. This requires permission from the BTIB.

The BTIB appears satisfied that the company has complied with the terms set by the BTIB.

I have been following developments in the local tuna industry since 2002 and must say that today I am just as frustrated and angry at the state of the local industry as the Ocean Fresh management.

Over the years I have written about the failure of successive governments to assist the local industry and to develop the infrastructure needed at the port. Blame for the state of the industry today lies firmly at government's door and if the government does not take action, our local tuna industry is destined to go down the toilet as the agricultural industry has.

The first blunder I reported back in 2003 was the failure of government to avail itself of an offer from the fifth largest tuna marketing company in Tokyo Japan, speaking to some 30 fishermen at a meeting,

the Tokyo company rep urged that the Cook Islands supply their Albacore to Japan not the canneries in Pago. The canneries in Pago were only offering US\$3.50 per kilo while the Tokyo company could guarantee US\$8 a kilo or more. The Japanese regard our Albacore as the best they have seen.

Other blunders followed over the years. Locals who invested in the industry soon when belly up, no thanks to government.

More recently, Luen Thai owner, Mr Sam Chou visited Rarotonga and put a proposal to Minister Bishop as to how the Cook Islands could maximize its returns from the industry. This was reported by the Herald. Mr Sam is a person of extraordinary intellect and business sense. His tuna fleet consists of 1,400

vessels of which only some 14 are licensed to fish in our EEZ. This number is less than the Taiwanese. His six major businesses employ 185,000 staff and he is a multi-billionaire. Did we listen to Mr Sam's advice? It is a concern no-one in government has the intelligence to advance our local industry.

Perhaps the time has probably come to put MMR onto a business footing and appoint a Board to oversee its performance.

For the record, the Herald's own enquiries reveal that Huanan are not offloading up to 60 tonnes of tuna a month but only around 5 tonnes have been provided locally this year.

The company has injected around \$1.5 million into the local economy.

The prison labour is paid for.

Letter to the Editor



Grey Power to march on parliament

By Norma Ngatamariki

On Wednesday 8th, Grey Power held a meeting at the Sinai Hall to discuss the future of the pensioners group. Vice president, Dennis Tunui, addresses the group and acknowledges the efforts of Pitt Media Group for their constant support. Tunui stresses the importance of getting more local pensioners on board. "With more members, we have more power."

On the agenda for the meeting was the involvement of secondary schools, reimbursement of the pensioners, and a scheduled march on parliament. It was a time for the elderly to express their thoughts, opinions and concerns on these issues. The meeting's discussion was based on the reimbursement of the \$30,000 (plus interest) to the six members whose funds were withdrawn from their account as well as the reimbursement of the 66 members who paid more than \$100,00 worth in back tax (plus interest). Tunui also remarks that local pensioners are not allowed to pay under \$150 in tax. "This is simply ridiculous!" Grey Power members have also considered submitting a court case against the Government.

A march is scheduled to take place on Friday 10th October on parliament at 2:30pm, demanding that the Government reimburse their money.

Dear Sir/Madam,
It has been brought to our attention that a ministerial directive has gone to BTIB to look at giving Huanan Fishing a trading licence to unload 50-70 tonnes of frozen fish onto the local market, once a month.

Is this a good idea?

A- Yes if there is no fish and if there weren't 50-60 local families relying on fishing for a living or as a secondary income.

B- No, not for Ocean Fresh Ltd or the local economy.

O.F.L. employs 15 staff with wages of approx \$350,000.00 P.A., ship support costs – fuel, oil, engineers, food, sundries \$400,000.00 plus Port charges, PAYE & VAT taxes... the list goes on & on.

What is the real benefit from Huanan Fishing Ltd.? It would be interesting to see what one of their boats actually injects into the local economy. If you ask the question no one can give you a number.

There is one fact- local prisoners are being used to unload their boats without pay, or the correct clothing for working in the freezers on these boats, be interesting to see what response this gets.

If BTIB approve Huanan's application then I guess this will tell us all what business acumen this BTIB Board has.

Signed
WG Doherty
Director
Ocean Fresh Ltd

Offering forgiveness

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article of encouragement I want to speak on a subject that challenges many of us in our lives, and that is FORGIVENESS! We can not move forward successfully in life with an “unforgiving” attitude.

We are going to look at “WHY we should forgive those who hurt us!” In Matthew 18, Jesus spoke the Parable of the “Unforgiving Servant”. In this parable, Jesus gave 3 reasons why we should forgive.

Firstly, we need to forgive those who hurt us BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN US! Ephesians 4v.32 reads “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” When we understand how much God has forgiven us, it causes us to want to forgive others. If we have a hard time forgiving others, we will have a hard time letting go of that hurt in us. Remember that we are living in the light of God’s love and grace through the finished work of Jesus Christ for us on Calvary! God has forgiven us, and we should forgive others also.

Secondly, BECAUSE RESENTMENT (OR FEELING BITTER) DOESN’T WORK. Resentment or feeling bitter always hurts us more than anybody else. In the Book of Job we’re told that resentment doesn’t work. In Job 5v.2 it reads “To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.” Sometimes when we’re so filled with hate

or bitterness we do foolish things. Ecclesiastes 7v.9 reads “It’s foolish to hold a grudge.” No matter how bitter we are towards the person who hurt us (maybe our mother, father, ex-husband or wife, a student at school, maybe a former friend who betrayed us) it is not going to change the past. Bitterness will never solve the problem. It never hurts the person who offended us, it hurts us! The person who hurt us maybe living a normal life; and may have forgotten the hurt he or she has caused us! Yet we’re still bitter, and being angry! “Some people stay healthy until the day they die. Others have no happiness at all. They live and die with bitter hearts.” It’s unhealthy. God is saying, we need to learn to forgive! Jesus said on that Cross on Calvary “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Thirdly, we need to forgive others BECAUSE FORGIVENESS IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO HAVE. WE NEED FORGIVENESS IN THE FUTURE. We can’t expect others to forgive us if we are not willing to forgive them. Jesus said in Matthew 6, “...if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” What you sow is what you reap! If you are a forgiving person, then you will be forgiven. But if you are an unforgiving person, then don’t expect forgiveness from others.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



If we have problems with others try and sort them out before moving on in life. Don’t take our old “unforgiving heart attitude” from one day to the following day. Leave them behind because life must move on! Psalm 51v.10-12 (New Living Translation) reads “Create

in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.” May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te arua.

Tereora College Senior Ball 2014!

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

It's the school holidays y'all! Holler! Every kid in the country will get to sleep in and not worry about school for the next two weeks. Yuss! But anyways, on Saturday 4th, the Tereora College Senior Ball was held inside the Princess Anne Hall. It was supposed to start at 7pm, but everybody works on island time, so people started arriving at 7:30pm. Students actually went out of their way to make this event work. Hiring the actual police force to be security on the night, renting out cars, purchasing outfits online. Everybody went all out because it's our last year as seniors, so we gotta make everything count.

I did a lot of running around to make sure that I was prepared for this Ball. I made an appointment for hair and make up at VIP (that awesome hair

and beauty salon in Takuvaine), got my eyebrows done, got my jewellery sussed (thanks, Auntie Kat), went out and bought shoes and sorted out a back up dress (a big thank you to Peggy Matapo). I've never done so much work for myself! Let's just say that I spent a lot of time (not to mention money) on this.

It was my first time getting make up done. I just hoped that I wasn't allergic to any cosmetics or anything. After two hours, I had been transformed into someone that I didn't recognise (another big thank you to Eli Dyer, who did a wonderful job). I had to drive home real slowly just to keep my hair in place (and it didn't help that I was driving a bike). I still had a three hour wait on my hands, so I was wondering what to do during that time.

And finally, it was time. My partner to the ball picked me

up on the rented car and we were on our way. We did a little drive around to see what was happening (because we didn't want to be too early. We wanted to make a dramatic entrance). When we finally went inside the hall, it was like entering another world. There were little cute centrepieces for the tables, two blackjack tables in the middle of the hall, the Photobooth in the corner, a bar and lounge at the far end. The lights were illuminating the room and it made everything seem unreal. Awesome!

I just wanted to eat some good finger food, dance my butt off and make some memories. My friends and I took to the dance floor as if our lives depended on it. I played a little Blackjack (which is a surprisingly easy game to learn) and won a few chips. There were some awesome prizes up for grabs,



such as the Blackjack Champion, Most Outgoing Person, Best Dancer and Best Dressed (Male and Female), Prince and Princess and, the prize for the night, King and Queen. It was a fun night for all of us Year 13 students, one we will remember for all time.

Gubbi-Gubbi, that's a wrap

By *Nadia George*

Seven months later and hours of hard work and training has finally paid off. Yes I've returned home a winner! Finally after a year long of fundraising, our team had ventured off on our journey to Australia to compete in that paddling competition I've mentioned over and over again. It was an amazing experience that I was able to share with an amazing group of people and now I am truly saddened to have to return back to my boring life here on Rarotonga. #teardrop.

My first impression of Sunshine Coast was one of disappointment if I'm being completely honest. I expected something like Surfers Paradise in the GC but instead was greeted with brown grass and the scorching hot sun. No rest for the weary was given when we arrived as it was off to Lake Kawana where we registered up and did some

last minute training on the lake. That's what you call commitment right there!

Three days of paddling in an intense competition such as that can only be summed up in one word, nerve racking. But in saying that, it was also one of the best experiences of my life. I had represented my club and myself in the best way that I could and was fortunate enough to even collect a few medals along the way. Bronze to be exact and I know it ain't no gold medal but hey something is better than nothing am I right and I'm damn proud of my third placement because I had worked "hella" hard to get it.

The competition we were up against in Oz was nothing compared to the ones I had experienced at Vaka Eiva 2013, I mean those guys were tough but the kids at Gubbi Gubbi were ultimate! It was a pleasure losing to them lol. Not being one for high

expectations, my goals for the trip had been to not flip or capsize and to not come last. Goals achieved and expectations exceeded!

I'm actually finding this story hard to write because there are literally not enough words to describe how great this trip was. It truly is indescribable. Needless to say I had a good time and I'm sure my team had a great time as well. We paddled our hearts out and all returned home winners.

Thank you to all those out there who had made this trip possible for not only me but my team as well. The juniors of Ngakau Toa are truly grateful for all the support we had received from you, whether it was financially or through words of support and encouragement, it really went a long way in helping us achieve our goals.

Last but not least thank you to our coach Vaea Melvin and managers Sue Fletcher-Vea



and Caroline Daniel. Ya'll are amazing. Thank you for all the hard work you three have put in and the sweat and tears; you were an integral part of our accomplishment. Thank you. Bring on vaka Eiva right?

Oh dear chooks! Word received that the very sharp Justice in the Land Court on Tuesday was not impressed with some of the local lawyers! He pulled up two prominent lawyers for failing to action orders issued months ago. One lawyer tried to claim the electoral petitions held matters up but the Justice was having nothing of that stating the order was issued back in May. One lawyer thought the Justice would give directions but appeared stumped when the Justice asked him for directions. One female Land Agent discovered to her horror, her two witnesses failed to appear and was then admonished for not following the proper procedures for introducing new evidence! The only one receiving a favourable nod from the bench was a Land Agent with an American accent! Is this Justice a breath of fresh air or what?



The Smokie in the daily dribble last week advocating the Demos need to employ Rassie to be a paid mentor to their new additions in the House must have been written by his dwindling loyal followers or himself who are cling to hope they can be feed by the tax payers. What will Rassie teach them? How to lose an election, how to lose your seat, how to lose a petition, how to fail at stitching a winning coalition together, how to lose your temper, how to tell lies and plenty of them, how to mislead the Party, how to stab your colleagues in the back? The only thing WWR has done well since being rejected by his own Penrhyn people is blowing his own trumpet. Unfortunately the only tune his colleagues hear coming out of it is the Last Post.



Crow about blowing your trumpet before the bread is cooked, last Friday



night the Demos in their Ruatonga tax funded club house were drinking long into the night celebrating they were the government as misleadingly informed by their Party leader Wee Willie Rass. Further down the road at a birthday bash, MP Elvis was celebrating his undisputed defeat of the Demos desperate grab for power through the QR. While the Demos were expecting the QR to swear them in on Saturday the CIP were ensuring there were no ship jumpers then the QR hopped on the plane and left for the Manea games in Mauke. While the Demo's \$1,134 a week plus expenses man Drolley was ringing all the punas throughout the country boastfully proclaiming the new Demo government, Radio Cook Islands was broadcasting a message from PM Eneia that he was still in charge with a united CIP firmly entrench in control of government very much to the relief of tax funded sponger Kaddie Pitman.



A rooster who was at the airport the other day is crowing about being a witness to some strange behaviour exhibited by the ousted Mr Rassie. Probably the stress of his \$1,670 a week severance pay plus perks ending this week has got to him. He was heard to say to someone "what are

you doing here, are you spying on me?" The surprised target of Rassie's question replied "get a real job," as he wandered off. And that advice was for free unlike the lawyers who demand payment for words of advice.



The Rugby Union's publicity officer MW the editor of the daily Internet CINews really pumped out stories about the Cook Islands Sevens team in an Aussie before the tournament but after the first round no media releases were printed. There were some stories about the Niue team plus another about the Niue team beating the Philippines, but whatever happened to our team? They probably got thrashed by the likes of Thailand. Previous embarrassing loses by our Rugby Sevens Team were gloriously reported as being valuable learning curves and team building experiences for the future, so why the silence now? Obviously the Union has run out of excuses for the continuing inexcusable record of failure.



The Demos are championing at the bit to get their claws on to power because those waiting in the wings for highly paid tax funded jobs are deeply annoyed the leadership has let them down by snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory. Former MP for Tupapa

Faireka is to get the Public Service Commissioner's job, Paul Lynch at Seabed Minerals will get the boot in the name of restructuring and replaced by another Paul, Allsworth that is, Carmel Beattie has been promised Culture, Keu Mataroa to replace Mac Mokoroa at ICI, Kala Eggleton moves up to the top job at Tourism and Joseph Caffery will be heading to windy city as the High Commissioner. More next week on who wants what including the job Rassie is trying to line up for himself.



One of the Rarotonga workers on the two Manihiki harbour upgrades said whenever there was feasting the Manihiki locals would scan the table for fresh veggies. Never mind the abundance of coconut crabs, crayfish or sea food delicacies, first to go were any lettuce or the salads.

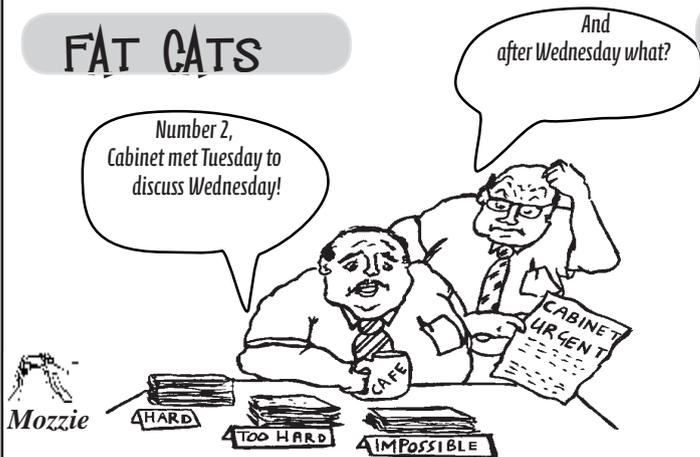


Some poor person got skittled by the PM last Saturday morning around 9am. As the PM was turning into St Joseph Road. The cop Avele and a policewoman attended the scene but did not detain the PM and it is not reported whether the mandatory breath test was carried out. According to bystanders, the PM was allowed to go on his way, leaving the poor injured one lying on the road awaiting medical attention! First there was Nandi now the PM, who's next?

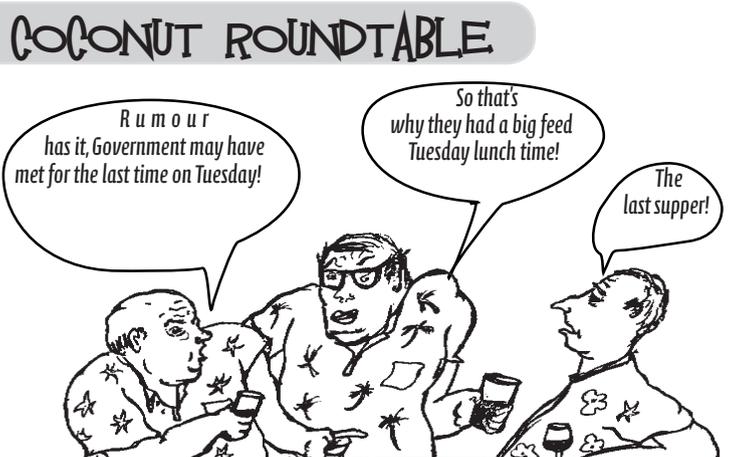


Oh dear chooks! Niue won a rugby league game in Sydney the other day and celebrated big time! Who did Niue beat? Was it a team well known as a prominent league playing nation? The Philippines! The score? 36-22. The half time score was Niue 20-Philippines 0. This means in the second half, Niue scored 16 points to the Philippines 22. Clearly the Philippines won the second half! Look out Cook Islands! Here come the Philippines!

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Iri Iri Kapua on the state of Raii on Tumutevarovaro



By Noeline Browne

Traditional leaders from the three Vaka of Rarotonga gathered to hold an Iri Iri Kapua on the state of the existing Raii sites on the island so that it can be documented and included in a report being compiled by the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui.

The most significant tribal Raii sites appear to be in Takitumu judging from the reports made by the traditional chiefs of the district. George Hosking, the mono of Raina Mataiapo, made quite an impression with his views on how the tribal Raii at Akapuaos saying that people are welcome to visit the area formerly known as Beach Cargo. Basically, people could look but not

take, but if they did want to take any fish, then they must first ask permission from Raina Mataiapo.

There is also the Raii at Avana-Ukurere that was declared by Kainuku Ariki who is the Pu Enea for Avana Nui, however, certain parts of Avana are under the akaere of Manavaroa Mataiapo, Phillip Nicholas. Both chiefs also jointly own Motu Tapu.

Uirangi Mataiapo discussed her Raii in the lagoon in front of the Pacific Resort which by the way is located on Uirangi family land.

There are two Raii declared in Te Au o Tonga tribal Raii are at Avatiu harbour and also at Tuoro-Black Rock-Nikao Social Centre and there is talk of extending it right through

to in front of Parliament in Nikao. Aunty Mau Wichman from Nikao took an active part in the discussions but as a leading member of Ngati Makea and Ngati Putua rather than as an MP.

Apai Mataiapo from Arai Te Tonga, also spoke strongly of the fact that there are no Raii in the Tupapa district after the chiefs from that area including Vakatini Ariki decided that their village people needed to have access to the kaparata kai in the lagoon and reef.

Puaikura were not certain which of their Raii were still in place. They told the gathering that they would meet with the Kauariki Rangi on Tuesday 7 October and come back with the results. However, it is known to the

writer that Tinomana Ariki is in favour of at least two Raii in her Vaka, one outside the Rarotonga Resort which already exists and another at the Edgewater Resort, but when that commenced is uncertain.

All leaders agreed that a follow up workshop will be required for more details to be added to the report. These further details would be on monitoring issues and compliance measures and penalties, if any to be imposed. The workshop was held under the auspices of the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui with funding provided by the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Global Blue and administered by the Office of the Prime Minister.

Champion speed skater back in Rarotonga

By Nadia George

2011 World champion inline speed skater Reyon Kay who is of Cook Islands descent, is back on the island and spoke to the Herald about his aspiring new future in long track ice-skating.

The Herald has followed Kay's career in skating from an early age.

Since his transition into long track ice-skating three years ago, Kay has resided in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he has endured some very strict training agendas whilst trying to adjust and enhance his performance level in this new sport.

Reyon had initially made the switch from Speed Skating to long track ice-skating to chase his Olympic dream. His dream of becoming an Olympian is his primary goal for his career in sport thus far, saying that he has already begun his training and is trailing for the New Zealand Olympic team to represent the country in long track ice-skating.

Kay had made the switch from skates to blades some years back and says that it has taken him some time get his technique into tip-top shape as old tendencies are hard to shake. Much of the techniques that Kay has learnt over the years in his speed-skate trainings has helped him in some ways, however, he must still learn an entirely new way of racing as this new sport requires a completely different technique.

All technique talk aside, Kay says that the thing he finds most difficult to adjust to is the freezing cold temperature he must have to brave. Saying that it can get to as cold as -20 degrees and he is "still not used to the cool temperatures".

Reyon had originally started inline speed skating at an early age and has made a



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very successful career out of it, competing in international inline speed skating events all around the world. With his most memorable accomplishment being his 2011 title win, crowning Kay as the World champion for Inline Speed-Skating. Reyon will tackle six major races in the upcoming season, with his first two events being held on the first and second week of December 2014 in Berlin, Germany and Amsterdam, Netherlands. Following those events, he will then spend the next three months in Holland where he will continue his training.

Kay says that his family has been instrumental in his successful sporting careers

and has helped him in some ways achieve his goals. Reyon Kay is the son of Helene Kay and grandson of mama Deborah Tamaiva (of Mauke connections) who resides in Arorangi. Kay is in Rarotonga to attend a friend's wedding.

We wish Kay every success for the future and Cook Islanders will be surprised to learn that Kay previously offered to represent the Cook Islands but was informed by CISNOC the Cook Islands did not participate in the Winter Olympics.



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Letter to the Editor

Local tuna fishers supported

Dear Editor,
This letter is to support the concerns raised by local businessman Bill Doherty in his letter relating to the Ministerial directive to the BTIB allowing the Chinese foreign fishing company further access to the port. There are so many issues that it is difficult to know where to begin.

Firstly, why would we allow a company that flouts the Marpol Convention with one of its ships spotted by environmentalist and whale researcher, Nan Hauser while she and her fellow workers were on the water just outside Avatiu Harbour? In fact, she was so upset that she approached at least two local NGOs to take up the cause but found that help was not at hand. Then she happened to see a rep from the

traditional leaders and asked what could be done about her seeing them fishing in Avatiu which happens to be under a Raui and that she and her crew were eyewitnesses to one of the Chinese fishing ships discharging their bilge just outside the mouth of the harbour. Her concern was not only the flouting of sanitary laws under Cook Islands law but mainly the ill effects of the bilge on the whale that just happened to cruise past and caused it great distress.

From there, things progressed and after a few phone calls, it was determined that the relevant authorities were Maritime and the Ports Authority and this was followed up by a visit to these authorities on the same day. Apparently, Nan had not approached either one of the

authorities at that time. But during the conversations, it was apparent that even if Nan had done so, there would have been difficulties because even though Cook Islands is party to the Marpol Convention, to deal with marine pollution, Avatiu is not equipped with the facilities for offloading waste or bilge.

It is not certain whether that is a budgetary constraint or whether the lack of space to provide such a facilities or from lack of planning. As the information came to hand, the rep from the traditional leaders kept Nan informed by a series of text messages and phone calls back and forth. The matter culminated in a discussion with the Huanan rep who admitted that there had been some problems with the ships and handed me a copy of the terms of reference by which his firm's ships are meant to abide when they are here.

So it was with great surprise to read the letter by Doherty about

the Ministerial directive relating to a company that has not shown any inclination to abide by their own rules, let alone that of the Cook Islands and of international law of the sea and Marpol.

And that is not to mention the concern at the unhygienic conditions that the fish is being unloaded using the labour of prisoners who according to the letter are not provided with the protective clothing on the boats.

Whatever justification the Ministry of Marine Resources has made and whichever Minister issued the directive, it is clear that there are plans afoot which will eventually allow the foreign fishing company to be registered as a local fishing fleet. Please don't allow that to be so, because if it were to happen, then they would potentially be allowed the same access as the truly local fishing company such as Ocean Fresh Cook Islands. Comments welcome from other concerned persons.

Environmentalist

PUBLIC NOTICE



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NOTICE COMMUNITY MEETING

A Nikao Community Meeting together with Avatea and Nikao PTA members will be held on Thursday the 9th October 2014 at 4.30pm at the Avatea School Hall for a presentation of the conceptual design of the New School Apii Nikao Project which has gone through several revisions. Come and listen and see the new design concept plan and milestones to complete this exciting project.

Te pati iatu nei tatou katoatoa I roto ite Oire Nikao pera katoa te au metua, Puapii, kia tae mai tatou ki tetai uipaanga puapinga note akatuanga I te ngutuare ou ote Apii Nikao ate Paraparau ra iva o Okotopa 2014, ki roto rai I to tataou ngutuare koia oki ko Avatea School Hall ite apa note ora a ite aiai. No reira eaa e akarongo taringa ua, aere mai akarongo ia teia nuti purapura note patu anga I teia ngutuare ou no ta tatou anau note tuatau ki mua



Ngakau Toa Paddler