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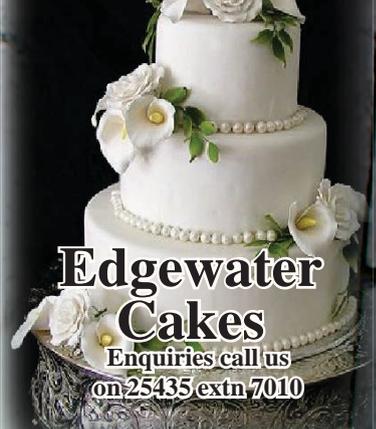
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Locals to hold shares in proposed major tourism development

Under a unique share holding arrangement, locals, especially landowners will benefit directly from a major proposed tourism development on Rarotonga and the outer islands



Artist's impression of accommodation proposed for the Outer Islands.

By Charles Pitt

Details are now emerging of a unique shareholding arrangement proposed for a major, comprehensive tourism development which involves establishing 4 to 6 star accommodations throughout the Cook Islands.

This development will also involve the development of support services for the hotels in other sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and farming. The comprehensive nature of the development is aimed at growing the economy not only on the back of increasing visitor numbers but also through attracting the bigger spending 4 to 6 star visitor. The development includes new, affordable air and sea transportation services to the outer islands.

The vision held by the Cook Islanders who comprise the Merchants of Paradise Group undertaking the development, is that the benefits from the development flow directly to locals whether it be from

employment opportunities, provision of services and most importantly from ownership of the development.

As to the aspect of ownership, the MOP Group proposes that the Tourism development be a joint venture with Chinese interests and finance (50%) and local shareholders (50%). The local shareholding in respect of other sectors will vary from 33% to 66% depending on input.

The local ownership component for tourism developments, will see Landowners holding 25% of the shares.

The shareholding structure proposed, is as follows:

Landowners 25% (in addition to ground rent)

- MOP Group 25%
- Island/Vaka Council 10%
- Traditional Leaders 10%
- Religious Advisory Council 10%
- Sports Council (to be formed) 10%
- Cultural Council (to be formed) 10%

The ten percent shareholdings above will be by way of a tithe.

This MOP vision for social, economic and cultural development has come together over the past three-four years with meticulous planning and discussions with outer islanders who are also keen on their islands benefiting.

Essentially, the plan is to grow the economy in 7-parts, pivotal on Tourism and supported by Agriculture, Aquaculture, Shipping, Airline, Trade and Financial services.

The objective is to amass a financial outcome able to take the economy out of the doldrums and break the shackle of aid dependency that has haunted the Cook Islands since gaining self-government in 1965.

As for any small economy, developments have to be all encompassing and comprehensive to be effective, unlike big economies which already have infrastructure support services in place.

The Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) is as much the initiative of Government

as it is of MOP, as it is modeled on the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). The plan has been discussed with Government and interested Chinese parties. The imperative is for the private sector to step up and undertake cash rich developments to grow the wider economy on the back of cash poor infrastructure developments, to utilise infrastructures developed.

As mentioned above, the MOP Group will enter into a joint-venture on CDP developments with developers and investors approved by and funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China under the provisions of the One China Policy (OCP) Communiqué of 1997, as a private sector activity with commercial security to apply and no guarantee on the part of Government.

In other words Government is merely the facilitator as signatory to OCP and the conduit for private sector funding.

More details will be released as they come to hand.

Mrs Rattle, High Commissioner to China?

Has the time has come for government to consider appointing a High Commissioner to China?

Such an appointment can be justified on two grounds.

Firstly, the increased contact and exchanges with China in recent years, will foster closer economic relations and augers well for opening up opportunities for us in the areas of trade, exports, tourism, education and finance.

We will have opportunities, through mutual development and expert assistance, to export limited but high value added products to China and opportunities for Chinese investment will develop further. In order to sustain controllable development, high level representation in China will be necessary, initially to lay the groundwork for future prosperity. I say controllable because already we have seen visits by groups of Chinese businessmen seeking investment opportunities. While our Ministry of Foreign Affairs is aware of such visits, the general public, local entrepreneurs and many local businesses are not.

Secondly, such an appointment would enhance diplomatic relations and underpin the mutual agreement contained in a document we co-signed with China in 1997.

This document is the "Joint Communiqué between the Cook Islands and the People's Republic of China on the establishment of diplomatic relations" commonly known as the "One China Policy Document." (It was signed in Wellington, NZ on 25 July 1997).

Over the past few years I have suggested that the document be reviewed as it had been in place for 17 years and no policy framework had ensued as a result. This suggestion however has fallen on a succession of "deaf" ears. Successive Foreign Ministers and Ministry of Foreign Affairs policy makers have either ignored the document, forgot it existed or threw it in the too hard basket.

Since the signing of the document, 17 years have passed

and much has transpired between our two countries therefore a review is timely. Timely because China has entered a new phase in its relations with Pacific nations. Recently it announced a US\$1 billion in cheap loans for Pacific nations followed by another US\$1 billion grant for Small Islands Developing States for economic development involving the private sector.

Previously China provided assistance on a government to government basis with projects aimed at enhancing public infrastructure. We benefited from a new Court House, new Police Headquarters and new indoor sports stadium. More recently China has backed the water project.

Now China appears to be showing an interest in assisting the private sector which is the main driver for economic development. More Chinese businesses are now visiting the country looking at potential investment opportunities. So far Chinese interest has been mainly in fishing and black pearls. One group is expected this week on a two day visit which will include Aitutaki.

The likely extent and implications of this shift in focus needs to be examined because while the document signed in 1997 is wide ranging, it is non-specific as to practical applications and timetables. Following the issue of the document in 1997, we don't appear to have developed any policy framework for the practical implementation of the support China has offered us in the various sectors referred to in the document which were Social, Economic and Cultural development (paragraph 4). This is in spite of the spirit of the time when it was considered the document would be one of the building blocks in our relationship with China.

While there have always been some cultural exchanges and more recently sporting exchanges, these have not been on a regular basis.

The main thrust of the Joint Communiqué is the establishment of diplomatic relations and in this area we have fallen short of expectations.

The agreement was to;
1. establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level; and
2. exchange Ambassadors as soon as practicable.

China's Ambassadors have since come and presented their credentials but where is our Ambassador to China?

As soon as practicable does not mean some time after 17 years.

If we cannot appoint an Ambassador then we should at least appoint a High Commissioner. We have one in NZ and we once had one in Australia.

In my opinion, an ideal candidate for the position of High Commissioner could be Mrs Rattle, the current Speaker in parliament. There are other possibilities of course, among them Jim Gosselin the former Secretary of Foreign

Affairs. Another possible candidate could be Jon Jonassen

Mrs Rattle, I believe, has the right temperament and patience required to deal with the Chinese. The Chinese exercise much patience as their outlook and plans are long term.

Mrs Rattle would be of more value to the country in China than in parliament where her abilities I believe, are wasted trying to haul argumentative politicians into line. It's like appointing a Nuclear Physicist to control a class of Apprentice Butchers.

People with real ability need to be placed where they will accomplish the most for the country.

I believe the time has also come to appoint a High Commissioner to Samoa and that matter is examined in this issue.



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Questions, facts, rumours and the consequence of Puna's car crash involving a motorcyclist



Main Road and St Joseph road intersection where collision took place.

For the last two weeks rumours and gossip about the Prime Minister Henry Puna's latest alleged misadventures has been spreading like wildfire from one end of the Country to the other. Within minutes of the road accident happening, calls to the CI Herald by eye witnesses were being received. Since the incident more calls, text messages and emails have been received. This information has been screened and now presented for public consumption and interpretation. The Police were forwarded this article and their responses are published unedited.

QUESTIONS: Is Henry Puna receiving special preferential treatment by the Police because he is the Prime Minister? Are the Police compromising the law and their professional integrity

in their investigation of Puna's alleged breach of the law? Was Puna under the influence of alcohol?

POLICE RESPONSE: There is no special preferential treatment by the Police in the motor vehicle crash that the Prime Minister Henry Puna was involved in. Investigation is almost completed. Puna was not under the influence of alcohol. *End.*

FACTS: At approximately 9.00am on Saturday the 11 October 2014 the Prime Minister Henry Puna was involved in a motor vehicle collision that resulted in the male driver (Taripo Tokorangi) of a motorcycle being dislodged. The accident occurred at the St Joseph Road and Main Road intersection. Eye witnesses say Puna who was crossing the main road to access St Joseph Road

was the cause of the crash by failing to give way to the motorcyclist who was travelling on the main road mountain side lane in the direction of Avatiu. Mrs Akaiti Puna was a passenger in the car driven by her husband.

Puna assisted the motorcyclist Tokorangi immediately after the collision. An ambulance transported the injured motorcyclist to the hospital for treatment. Tokorangi was given a blood test for alcohol content instead of a breathalyser test and was discharged later in the afternoon. Before Puna also went to the hospital to check on the victim he was given a breathalyser test by the responding Police Officer Sergeant Avele Naku. *According to the Police a breathalyser test will reveal a lesser alcohol level than a blood test.*

POLICE RESPOSE: Can't

answer this. *End.*

It is a fact, witnesses also attending to the motor cyclist claim Puna reeked of alcohol, Ministry of Health staff have also reported Puna's breathe smelt strongly of alcohol. Police Officer Naku intervened and prevented hospital staff from giving Puna a blood test. Naku was heard to say, the Police will carry out the blood test to which a nurse was heard to reply to the effect since when did the Police carry out blood testing and further words to the effect, you think we are stupid?

POLICE RESPONSE: The medical doctors will only take blood for alcohol analysis when required to do so by a Police Officer. Therefore, Sgt Naku could not have intervened if he did not require the doctor

continued next page

to take blood from Puna. Furthermore, Police do not carry out blood test for alcohol contents. *End.*

Police Officer Naku recorded the breathalyser as being 300 which is below the limit of 400. Questions are now being raised among senior Police Officers who have received information from the public that Puna's breathe smelt strongly of alcohol.

POLICE RESPONSE: This is pure speculation. *End.*

RUMOURS: Sergeant Naku falsified the breathalyser reading to below the offending level of 400 and his intervention to prevent a blood test by medical staff is a breach of his duties. Naku is a long standing Cook Islands Party supporter. Puna asked Tokorangi not to give damaging information to the Police while at the scene of the collision as well as at the hospital.

POLICE RESPONSE: The above remains a rumour. *End.*

FACTS: The Police file regarding Puna's crash has been classified highly sensitive by the Police restricting computer accessibility. For a perceived minor incident why the secrecy? Puna paid for the repairs to Tokorangi's motor bike involved in the crash. Puna attended a 50th birthday party on the night of 10 October 2014 held at the Islander Hotel (formerly the Aquarius Pacific Hotel) in Panama. He was observed drinking an alcohol beverage. Alcohol remains in one's

blood for up to 15 hours after consumption.

POLICE RESPONSE: The file is not classified as highly sensitive. The file is being treated like any other police file under investigation. *End.*

RUMOUR: Unconfirmed information received claimed a group including Puna continued drinking at a location not far away from the Islander Hotel after the 50th birthday party ended.

POLICE RESPONSE: The above remains a rumour. *End.*

QUESTION: Who will pay for the damage to the vehicle driven by Puna, himself or the taxpayer?

POLICE RESPONSE: The police do not decide as to who pays for the damages to the vehicle driven by Puna. *End.*

FACTS: The Transport Amendment Act 2007 section 3 states, the causing of bodily injury or death through reckless or dangerous driving or driving while under the influence of drink or drugs penalty is 10 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine.

Section 4. Causing bodily injury or death through careless use of a motor vehicle 5 years imprisonment or \$ 5,000 fine. **Section 5,** reckless or dangerous driving penalty 12 months imprisonment or \$1000.

FACT: The Electoral Act 2004, section 9 (8) refers to the Tenure of Office of Members of Parliament. He or she is convicted in the Cook Islands or any part of the Commonwealth

of any corrupt practise or other offence punishable by death or imprisonment of a term of one year or more.

CONSEQUENCE: The Prime Minister Henry Puna cannot escape a charge being brought against him for careless driving causing and accident. The severity of sentence is dependent upon whether the motorcyclist Tokorangi was injured and if Puna was under the influence of drink. There are other charges related to breathalysers and blood tests results. The excuse the victim Tokorangi does not want to press charges is irrelevant and not a consideration, it is solely a Police matter. Either an offence was committed or it wasn't.

FACT: In 2013 in Samoa two senior ranking politicians, a Minister (Associate of Finance) was charged with careless driving (doing a U turn in a no U turn zone) and failing to undertake a breathalyser. There was no collision. The Deputy Prime Minister a lawyer by profession interfered with the police duties at the scene of the incident and was also charged. Both appeared in Court and despite a robust argumentative defence they were both found guilty.

QUESTIONS: Did the Police Officer tamper with the breathalyser reading? Why wasn't Puna subjected to a blood test at the Hospital like Tokorangi? What excuse will Sergeant Naku give if he fails to charge Puna? At no fault to

the motorcyclist he was hit by a vehicle driven by the PM. The victim suffered discomfort and minor injuries and was admitted to the Hospital's Emergency Treatment section. Who is going to pay for the \$50 ambulance fee? Will the innocent victim be compensated for his ordeal?

POLICE RESPONSE: When a person is being breath tested, the police had a step by step procedure to follow. The form for this procedure is filled in by the officer as the test is being carried out. It is procedural that all drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes are breathalysed. This is the process that Puna underwent. But because the other driver was taken to hospital, the attending officer requested for a blood test whilst at the hospital. A breath test would have been carried out if he was not taken to hospital. The decision to charge or not to charge rests with the police. The victim was out of the hospital soon after he was examined by the medical profession. The ambulance fee and the victim compensation remains to be addressed. *End.*

COMMENT: Maybe it's time the Cook Islands Police invested in a Polygraph. (lie detector)

- George Pitt

Editor's Note: When Jim Marurai was PM he was involved in an accident where two tourists were knocked off a motorbike. Marurai was fined by the Court and his license was suspended for a period.

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Our Frontpage model Appoint a High Commissioner to Samoa

to foster closer economic and social ties

By Charles Pitt

As well as considering the appointment of a High Commissioner to China, government should also consider appointing a High Commissioner to Samoa.

The Samoan Prime Minister is already aware and willing to assist the Cook Islands in using Samoa as a stepping stone from NZ and Australia to the Northern Cook Islands. Samoa is a lot closer to our Northern Group than Rarotonga is and flying time is much shorter.

The costs to travel and freight goods between Samoa and the Northern Group are considerably more affordable.

The Samoan PM has already agreed to provide some land for a Cook Islands Hostel to be built for people in transit.

Cooperation with Samoa could see;

1. Affordable air and sea transportation for people and goods to the Northern Group.

2. Supply of medicinal drugs and equipment to the Northern Group at lower costs.

3. Referral of patients to Samoa Hospital for treatment or to NZ through Samoa at half the cost of travel from the Northern Group/ Rarotonga/NZ.

4. Access to Samoa's air ambulance service.

5. Opportunities to market/sell high value added Northern Group products in Samoa. Samoa has a larger population and their tourism industry may soon outstrip ours.

6. Tourism opportunities whereby Tourists holidaying in Samoa can do a day trip to our Northern Group. Flying time to Pukapuka is about 40 minutes.

7. Opportunities to employ Samoan seasonal labour on short term contracts to assist Northern Group growers with planting and later on with harvesting. The higher rate of pay in the Cook Islands would attract Samoan labour.

The Cook Islands already enjoys close sporting, educational and family ties with Samoa. There is no reason why these ties cannot be extended to the labour market, export industry and tourism sector.

Increased contact and cooperation with Samoa would justify having a High Commissioner's Office in Samoa to represent Cook Islands interests.

By-catch destined for Aitutaki

By Charles Pitt

Aitutaki MP Teina Bishop has advised the Herald that this week some 10 tonnes of by-catch will be off loaded at Avatiu wharf by the Huanan fishing vessel. Most of this contingent will be shipped on Thursday by container to Aitutaki where it will arrive on Saturday.

In Aitutaki, the by-catch will be sold under an arrangement, to the Aitutaki Fishing Association whose members will firstly make the fish available to the people in the Arenikau constituency. Then the Association members will supply the hotels and restaurants. What remains will be sold to the wider Aitutaki community.

This arrangement enables Aitutaki people to have fish at a very reasonable cost. The Fishing Association members also earn revenue.

On Rarotonga the Huanan by-catch is sold through two local retail outlets by permission of the BTIB.



Our frontpage model for this week is 20 year old Lydianna Taruwho is a hard worker at Highland Paradise and The Cafe at the Airport. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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Japan's demographic collapse points to grim future

This case in Japan is of interest to the Cook Islands as it illustrates how population decline can seriously affect a country's capacity for economic growth.

TOKYO -- Japan is caught in a demographic squeeze unprecedented among developed countries: a ballooning number of elderly, coupled with a decline in the overall population that is causing communities to wither and markets to vanish.

If the country is to maintain its vitality, new ideas are needed to combat the problem -- and quickly.

Mount Hakodate, on the northern island of Hokkaido, is renowned for its view of the surrounding bay and city, especially at dusk. Tourists often gasp when they see the lights of the city below, and those of the squid fishermen out for their nightly catch.

But will there be anyone left to admire the scene in future years? In April, the central government designated Hakodate as a depopulated area, the first city with a population of around 300,000 or more in Japan to earn that distinction. The population of Hakodate has dropped to 270,000 from 340,000 in 1985, qualifying it for state support offered to localities whose populations drop by around 20% or more.

The fall is especially steep in the center of the city. The central government forecasts Hakodate's population will fall to 170,000 by 2040. The city center is virtually a deserted area at night. Although the lights still twinkle in the evening, much of the shine has gone out the local economy.

Drying up, flaming out

Japan's population is just over 127 million at present, about 1.04 million less than its historical peak in 2008. But this decline masks drastic shifts in the country's demography. The number of people between the ages of 15 and 64 has declined by nearly 4 million, while the 65 and older cohort has shot up by more than 4 million.

The number of seniors has risen by more than the population of Yokohama, causing problems around the country.

In May, the city of Chichibu, in Saitama Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, sheepishly told residents their water bills will be rising sharply. The pipes are so old that 30% of the water leaks away before it reaches households. Unless urgent repairs are made, the water supply will fail, the city says. Compounding the problem is Chichibu's falling population, which has caused revenue to drop. The city initially planned to raise rates by 35%, but the municipal assembly eventually cut the increase in half, opting to cover the shortfall with funds from the general budget.

Japan's demographic malaise affects disaster-prevention as well. Although preparations for a major earthquake along the Nankai Trough off central Japan are gathering pace in Seto, Aichi Prefecture, the number of volunteer firefighters is 18 short of minimum 268 required to carry out the disaster plan.

The effects of the population decline are spreading from rural to urban areas. The Japan Policy Council, a private-sector panel of experts, forecast 896 communities will see the number of women aged 20 to 39 fall by half by 2040, putting the communities' survival at risk. This includes 279 cities, including, Aomori, Akita and Asahikawa in northern Japan.

Crumbling elementary and junior high schools are an increasingly common sight in cities, with more than 60% of schools in major cities over 30 years old, according to official figures. The government estimates that if spending on building maintenance is held below the 800 billion yen (\$7.27 billion) set aside annually for construction of new schools, it will be necessary to close 35% of existing facilities and to



Although the streetlights shine brightly, the heart of Hakodate, Hokkaido is mostly vacant at night.

extend the life span of those that remain from around 40 years to 80 years.

The population is forecast to decline by more than a fifth in 30% of Japanese municipalities by 2030. The country's working-age population is expected to drop by nearly 10 million by then, with one out of every three people retired.

Shape of things to come

Yubari Elementary School in west-central Hokkaido, was closed in 2011 and converted into a farm. The gymnasium is a greenhouse for white asparagus and chicory. Corn grows in the old schoolyard.

"We would like to increase jobs by displaying our farm products at food fairs in department stores," said Naotomo Anzai, 41, head of a group that has taken over the school building from the city of Yubari. Yubari offers a clue to cities and towns struggling with population decline. As an exodus of residents caused the city's finances to implode, the public and private sectors have been forced to radically restructure.

The city sprawls over an area

the size of Tokyo's 23 wards, but it has only one elementary school, one junior high and one high school. Many old buildings now serve as farms, nursing-care facilities and post offices. Thousands of people are moving into public housing units in the city center.

The withering of Japan's population poses economic as well as social challenges. The Cabinet Office worries that as the country's population density falls, so will its capacity for innovation and economic growth; most economic exchange takes place between people living close together. Declines in population density could lead to a downward spiral as more and more people flee. In the decade through 2007, a quarter of Yubari's population left.

By 2030, 223 municipalities, or more than 10% of Japan's cities, towns and villages, will face population drops larger than that of Yubari, according to a government estimate. Unless urgent steps are taken to stem the fall, Japan may have many Yubaris in its future. (*Nikkei*)

Higher risk of tropical cyclones this summer

New Zealand and some of its neighbours have been put on alert for a higher than usual chance of tropical cyclones striking this summer.

Peak tropical cyclone season is usually from January to March.

Forecasting agencies in the South Pacific said for the coming tropical cyclone season, the risk for New Zealand was slightly higher than normal.

Niue, Samoa, the southern Cook Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu also had an elevated cyclone risk.

However, cyclone activity for Vanuatu and New Caledonia was expected to be below normal.

The National Institute

of Water and Atmospheric Research (Niwa) teamed up with the MetService and forecasters including the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Pacific Island National Meteorological Services to compile the seasonal outlook.

"If an ex-tropical cyclone comes close to the country, the current background climate conditions suggest it has a higher probability of passing east rather than west of Auckland City," the forecasters said.

Eight to 12 tropical cyclones were expected for the 2014-15 season for the Southwest Pacific basin.

On average, New Zealand experienced at least one ex-tropical cyclone passing within

550km of the country every year.

Dr Andrew Lorrey, Niwa climate scientist, said February and March had historically been the months ex-tropical cyclones were most likely to hit New Zealand.

Dr Lorrey said people in countries with elevated risk warnings need not panic, but should stay vigilant.

"The first thing everyone should do is pay attention to their local meteorological service and national disaster management announcements," he said.

Southwest Pacific cyclones fell into five classes, with Category 5 deemed the most dangerous.

For the coming cyclone

season, at least four storms were predicted to reach at least Category 3, with mean wind speeds of at least 118 km/h.

Another three may reach at least Category 4 strength, with mean wind speeds of at least 159km/h.

Forecasters said a Category 5 cyclone, with winds faster than 196km/h, was unlikely but could not be ruled out.

The most deadly cyclone in New Zealand's recorded history was Giselle, which in April 1968 caused the Wahine ship to sink with loss of 51 lives. Another three people died in other Giselle-related accidents.

An updated forecast would probably not be issued until the end of January.

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Whangarei council case a timely reminder to employers that staff are safeguarded by powerful legislation

This NZ court case is of interest in that it involves the question of public servants being politically neutral at the time of a general election.

Now that the general election is over, employers will be breathing a sigh of relief that they have another three-year respite from issues raised by employees wanting to stand for office, or needing time off work to campaign for their preferred political candidates.

This is an even bigger concern for public sector employers, where it is imperative that state servants “keep their jobs out of their politics and their politics out of their jobs,” as the State Sector Commissioner advised. However, the recent Employment Court case against the Whangarei District Council is a good reminder that employees have the right to hold political views, and this is protected by legislation, including the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Jan Walters was the personal assistant to the mayor and chief executive at the Whangarei District Council. In the most recent local body elections in October 2013, she nominated the previous mayor as a potential mayoral candidate, as was her right under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

She was not otherwise involved in any campaigning.

The incumbent chief executive took disciplinary action against Ms Walters for breach of the council’s policy requiring employees to be politically neutral, saying that her support for another mayoral candidate meant she could no longer work as his and the incumbent mayor’s assistant. At the same time, the chief executive authorised his executive assistant to provide campaign assistance to a third mayoral candidate. Ms Walters was dismissed. The executive assistant was not.

The court found that Ms Walters’ dismissal was unjustified. It took into account



Jan Walters was awarded \$37,000 after being dismissed. Photo / NZME.

her right to participate in the democratic process, and that other staff had been allowed a higher level of political involvement more consistent with these rights, but Ms Walters was the only one dismissed. The court found this was unreasonable. She was awarded \$37,000.

In an earlier case, in 2005, concerning a presenter for Maori Television, with some public profile, the Employment Court also protected the employee’s right to hold a political view. Ngarimu Daniels was a nightly presenter of Maori Television news, and widely recognised as a skilled te reo speaker. She took part in public protests, against the Foreshore and Seabed Bill.

While there was no question that Ms Daniels’ participation was both lawful and peaceful, the protest was widely reported in the media due to another participant throwing an axe at then Prime Minister Helen Clark’s electoral office.

Ms Daniels was instructed by her employer not to take part in any further protests, on the grounds that she was the “face” of Maori Television, and on pain of future dismissal.

The court found that this was unreasonable, and that Ms Daniels had been discriminated against in her employment by virtue of her political views in breach of the Human Rights Act. The court also took into account that other staff who had also been involved in protests had not been treated similarly. She was awarded \$16,000, despite not having been dismissed and continuing in her job.

So, how far can a fair and reasonable employer go when refusing requests by employees who want to participate in political action? The cases outlined above show that courts will protect an employee’s right to hold a political view, and to participate, at least to some lawful extent, in political action. Attempts by employers to take action against employees for holding political views, even where the employees are in responsible or high-profile positions, are likely to breach the good faith provisions under the Employment Relations Act 2000, as well as breaching more fundamental non-discrimination provisions in the Human Rights Act 1993 and the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

Meeting only the public law tests of natural justice and reasonable action is not enough. This includes being active, responsive, and communicative, in creating and maintaining a productive employment relationship.

Employers considering restrictions on behaviour or codes of conduct which might impact on an employee’s right to hold a political viewpoint will need to consider how this might work in practice, including what level of political participation is appropriate (it will need to be more than “none”, so some active communication with staff may be needed to work out appropriate cut-off points), and how to make sure that consistent rules and expectations are applied to all employees.

General and local government elections are only once every three years but issues on which employees might want to express political views can arise at any time - so employers need to be ready.

• Chen Palmer appeared in Janet Walters-Gleeson v Whangarei District Council [2014] NZERA Auckland 344.

Letter to the Editor

Righting the wrong

Dear Editor,
Kia Ora from Manihiki, Pae Tokerau. Although many people in the country are frustrated and fed-up with the on-going political saga of the post-election petitions and the up-coming appeals to the Courts of Appeal, the conclusion of this process must be completed to validate our belief and trust in our Justice System, and that indeed, Justice is being seen to be done and that Justice will prevail.

At the very least, we are able to see Justice being done and that the rule of law is being applied with integrity and to lawful effect, for the benefit of our Society. For should it be necessary, future Governments may need to implement reform in addressing various issues of concern for the betterment of the Nation and to demonstrate Good Governance, Responsibility and Accountability and Open Transparency in the governing of the Nation, which is the expectation of its people.

Over a period of time, new election/ political precedents have been responsible for muddying the political landscape, which as a result of past seemingly strange and wonky judicial decisions have virtually had a distorting effect in the application of Justice in the Cook Islands. After all, some accepted precedents resulting from seemingly strange judicial decisions, may seem okay to some but odd to others, and until open and transparent Reform issues are addressed, and possible revocation of suspect decisions are implemented and corrected, then we will continue to apply precedents at odds with True Justice. Not surprisingly, Judges dislike their decisions being questioned and challenged; so when an Appeal is actioned and put to the Courts

of Appeal, should the Appeals Tribunal find in favour of the Appellant (the party filing the Appeal), the ramification of this decision is akin to a slap in the face for the Judge, with the added perceived stigma of maybe being looked at as a Clayton's or a Weetbix Judge? Well, that's how Democracy works and we do embrace it and anyway, there's no ifs or buts about it, you're either right or you're wrong!

As a result of the Skyping of Pae Tokerau and Chief Justice Tom Weston's judgement of the Manihiki Petition, it seems a new precedent may have been set based on fabricated evidence, particularly by witness SHEENA JOHN who had testified the supposed whereabouts of another witness who also took the stand. Therefore, I would like to raise one or two concerns, so please bear with me.

1. **THE SKYPE DEBACLE-** In regards to the Courts going to the Outer Islands to dispense on-island Justice, the historical position of the State was its Constitutional commitment to the Rule of Law, and thus the State shouldered the full costs in its lawful obligation and duty to the Nation in the implementation of Justice nationally, to all its people in an equitable manner, effected with open and transparent Good Governance, and bound by the principles of Accountability and

2. **Responsibility.** Supposedly, issues of cost were a consideration to Skype Pae Tokerau with this new and untested technology, irrespective of obvious potential problems that would no doubt arise. E.g. no direct Legal Counsel access for Petitioner and Witnesses, which was a huge disadvantage and contributed to witnesses being unfairly discredited. Clearly, the implications are straightforward—those who advocated and pushed

for this Skype application, didn't give a damn about the injustice and immoral inequity between South and North. It is clear this issue was engineered to affect a desired result and indeed that result was achieved. Furthermore, the consequence of this action will result in an Appeal to the Courts of Appeal, as it rightly should, and hopefully, Reform will be implemented resulting in major improvements to the Cook Islands Justice System. Don't be surprised if this enforced Skype itself forms a solid basis for an Appeal, to the Courts of Appeal.

2. **JACK POKIPOKI-** Chief Justice Tom Weston's judgement that witness JACK POKIPOKI was not at Henry Puna's outboard motor meeting of June 24th 2014 (held at Vainga Marae, Tauhunu) and was instead supposedly playing cards at the home of Apii Piho, seemingly he was satisfied with Sheena John's testimony, and adjudged her evidence as proof that Jack Pokipoki was not at the meeting. I would like to clarify a couple of things that CJ Weston may have over looked which would have proven beyond any doubt whatsoever that Jack Pokipoki was indeed present at said meeting as he had testified and that by inference, Sheena John had lied, perjuring herself on the stand.

Note- During the 2 day Skype court session I was present from open to close of court, both days.

During Jack Pokipoki's testimony he stated he was at Apii Piho's residence playing cards for a period of time, then he decided to go to Vainga for the meeting. He stated he sat on the road surrounding the Fare Ariki, along from where Jesse Kaitara and Papa Pia Taraeka were also sitting. Rightly so, CJ Weston questioned him where on the wall was he sitting. Jack Pokipoki also clearly stated he was sitting with Tepania Tepania (Tauhunu

infrastructure foreman), his wife, and Party Johnson (Policeman on duty) on the wall. And yet CJ Weston did not question Jack Pokipoki over this revelation, nor did he request the Manihiki Deputy Court Registrar to effect subpoena Tepania Tepania and wife and Party Johnson to testify effectively validate Jack Pokipoki was in fact sitting on the wall with them, thus proving he was at the meeting and told the truth.

At this point I would like to clarify that I don't know whether CJ Weston had the power to effect a subpoena for Jack Pokipoki 3 on-wall companions; perhaps he was unable, for whatever reason to do so, I don't know. But simple logic and the rational to effect a subpoena, would have proven that Jack Pokipoki was truthfully in his testimony and his affidavit.

Please note- Later that evening I spoke with Party Johnson and he confirmed he and 2 others were sitting on the wall with Jack Pokipoki. Thus, the consequence of this revelation is that Sheena John by inference and in fact, lied on the stand testifying that Jack Pokipoki was at Apii Piho's residence playing cards and was not at the Vainga meeting. (Sheena Koke koke!!!)

Hence I conclude and content that Jack Pokipoki had testified truthfully on the stand as to his affidavit that he was in fact and indeed at the Vainga marae meeting sitting with 3 other wall companions and did hear what Henry Puna had spoken about at that meeting.

In closing, there are other concerns that should be raised regarding CJ Weston's judgment of their Manihiki Petition; but I think I will leave that for another time and for others to analyse.

Ka Kite.

*Papa Williams, Tauhunu,
Manihiki, Pae Tokera*

High Court finds election of Tokerau Munro to the Tinomana Ariki Title was not valid as per 1975 agreement

On 14 October 2014, in the High Court (Land Division), Justice WW Isaac handed down his decision in the matter of an application by Tokerau Munro for the Court to determine her right to hold the tribal title of Tinomana Ariki Title.

The Isaia family (the respondents) opposed the application on the basis that the election process to elect the successor to the title was flawed and unfair.

Justice Isaac found that Tokerau Munro had not been validly elected in accordance with the agreement which both parties have accepted is the applicable custom with respect to s409 of the Cook Islands Act 1915. Her application therefore failed.

Justice Isaac said it's now back to square one that is, to the last agreement of the Kopu which was in accordance with the 1975 agreement. That is the decision on 29 July 2013 that the Isaia and Tepori sub Kopu decide a candidate for the title. The Kopu elected Matarii Vaineritua and the Kopu Ariki now need to meet to either confirm or reject her as Tinomana Ariki.

Should the Kopu Ariki reject her, Justice Isaac said the process would need to start again. In terms of the 1975 agreement, Tepori-a-Pa must elect a new candidate to put to the Kopu Ariki to confirm or reject.

The case was heard on 8 May 2014.

The following is a copy of the Decision.

Introduction

1 This application was filed by Tokerau Munro (the applicant) and seeks an order pursuant to s409(f) of the Cook Islands Act 1915 (the CIA) determining the applicant's right to hold the title of Tinomana Ariki.

2. The Application is opposed by the Isaia family (the respondents) on the basis that the election process adopted to elect the successor to the title was flawed and unfair.

Background

3. There has been a history of dispute to the title of Tinomana Ariki. Presumably in response to these sometimes bitter disputes, the Kopu Ariki of Tinomana met in 1975 and came to an agreement on how to decide in future who should hold the title. That agreement is referred to as "the 1975 agreement."

4. The 1975 agreement sets out a three step process for the election of a new Tinomana Ariki following the passing of a sitting Tinomana Ariki, based on rotation between the three primary family lines, being the three wives of Enuarurutini, the Ariki of Arorangi at the time that Christianity was introduced to Rarotonga. The lines, or Kopu, are Tepori-a-Pa, Oakirangi a Tangiau and Akaiti-a-Rua.

5. The 1975 agreement has been endorsed by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Vaineritua v Hosking*. (1994).

6. In 2013, Tinomana Ruta Hosking passed away, and the process to elect a new Tinomana Ariki began.

7. On 29 July 2013 the first meeting of the Kopu Ariki was held. It was accepted that it was the turn of Tepori-a-Pa to hold the title. The minutes of the meeting record the following resolutions:

1. That time be given to Isaia and Tepori (two of the sub-Kopu of Tepori-a-Pa) to meet and return a single candidate for the position of Tinomana Ariki.

2. That a one-month timeframe be given to the two sub-Kopu where they have to meet and report back to the Kopu Ariki.

8. The minutes then record that the meeting was to reconvene on 29 August 2013. The first resolution passed at this meeting was to add an item to the agenda, that "The Taromi Line wants to contest the title." Taromi is another sub-Kopu of Tepori-a-Pa. The meeting then passed a motion adopting the amended agenda.

9. The meeting then resolved that the minutes of the previous

meeting should be adopted.

10. Next, the report from the meeting of Tepori-a-Pa was presented. A copy of these minutes has not been presented to the Court, however the minutes of the 29 August 2013 meeting record that it was reported that the Isaia line agreed the Matarii Vaineritua should hold the title and was supported by a number of the other sub-Kopu.

11. The Chair then opened the meeting for discussions and at that point George Taikakara advised the meeting that the Taromi line met and elected Tokerau Munro to contest for the title and moved that the relevant documents be tabled.

12. After much discussion George Taikakara's motion was withdrawn, and it was then resolved that "The election for a Candidate be returned to Tepori-a-Pa and for the clan to meet again." It was finally resolved to reconvene the meeting on 26 September 2013.

13. The next meeting was actually convened on 29 September 2013. Tepori-a-Pa presented a report of a meeting held between Taromi and Isaia held on 19 September 2013, at which it was resolved that Tokerau Munro would be their candidate for Tinomana Ariki.

14. The report was adopted. After discussion, the three clans voted to accept Tokerau Munro as Tinomana Ariki. Each of the three Kopu had one vote. Oakirangi and Ani both voted in favour, however the vote of Tepori-a-Pa was split into seven, representing each of the sub-Kopu. Five voted in favour and two (Tepori and Isaia) against. Tokerau Munro was therefore declared the candidate, and after the meeting of the Uia Mataiapo, she was announced as Tinomana Ariki.

Procedural background

15. This application was filed on 14 February 2014. On 23 April 2014 the applicant filed an amended notice of application.

16. On 30 April 2014 Tina Browne, at that time counsel for the Isaia Family, filed a notice of opposition to the application.

17. The application was heard at Rarotonga on 8 May 2014.

18. The minutes of the hearing were transcribed and sent to me on 23 July 2014.

19. The balance file was sent to me on 30 September 2014.

20. Mr Moore as agent for the applicant sent a memorandum of Counsel dated 1 October 2014 which sets out what has been filed and also the need for a decision.

Case for the applicant

21. The applicant submitted that in regard to s409(f) of the CIA the Court has made it clear that its role is not to appoint the title holder, but merely to determine whether the person was elected in accordance with any "custom" or "procedure" which may exist for an election in the particular case. The applicant submitted that it is the election that is determinative in any finding that a person has the right to hold a particular title.

22. It was submitted that the document entitled "Notice for Tinomana Ariki Title" (the 1975 agreement) sets out the procedure for the election of the person to hold the title, and that its intention has been found by the Cook Islands Court of Appeal to be clear.

23. The applicant submitted that she was elected to the office of Tinomana Ariki in full accord with the 1975 agreement.

24. The applicant contends that the three-step process was followed. Firstly, one of the outcomes of the first electoral meeting was the election by the Isaia sub-Kopu of Matarii Vaineritua to the office of Tinomana Ariki. However, the Kopu Ariki at the meeting of 29 August 2013, declined to confirm that election. The Tepori-a-Pa line therefore elected a new candidate on 19 September 2013, Tokerau Munro, which the Kopu Ariki accepted and confirmed on 28

continued next page

September 2013.

25. The applicant submitted that the Kopu Ariki of Tinomana came together in the traditional way and elected a new Tinomana Ariki, following the established procedures set out and confirmed by two Courts of Appeal.

Case for the respondents

26. The respondents did not present written submissions to the Court, other than the notice of opposition filed on 30 April 2014, in which they alleged that the process adopted for the election was flawed and unfair.

27. At the hearing the respondents submitted that the 1975 agreement was created and agreed to so that the election of Tinomana Ariki was done in a fair manner.

28. The respondents submitted that the 1975 agreement was not followed in this case, and that the Taromi line has consistently claimed the title, but it is now time to recognize the other Tepori-a-Pa lines, including Isaia.

The law

29. I set out the relevant principles with respect to s409(f) of the CIA in *Makea Nui Title (2014)* as follows:

Section 409(f) of the Cook Islands Act 1915

(49) The Court's jurisdiction to determine the right of any person to hold office as an Ariki is contained in s409 of the Cook Island's Act 1915:

409. Miscellaneous jurisdiction of Land Court-in addition to the jurisdiction elsewhere conferred upon (the Land Court) by this Act, the Court shall have jurisdiction –

.....

(f) To hear and determine any question as to the right of any person to hold office as an Ariki or other Native chief of any island.

(50) This provision does not give the Court jurisdiction to appoint an Ariki or Native chief. The Court's role is limited to answering questions as to the right of a person to hold such office.

(51) The 1948 Native Appellate Court Decision *Re Makea Nui Takau* stated:

It is not the function of the Native Land Court itself to appoint an Ariki or other Native chief to office. Any such appointment can only be made under the ancient custom and use of the Natives of the Cook Islands.

(52) This was confirmed by the Native Appellate Court in *Re Tinomana*:

The most that the Court can do is to declare for the guidance and assistance of the people what it believes to be the custom governing such an appointment.....the most it could do if it found that Tepai had not been properly elected according to custom would be to declare that there had been no election, and that a fresh election would be necessary.

(53) This principle has not been altered over time. It was followed by the Land Court in decisions relating to the *MacQuarie-Makea Nui Ariki* title in the 1995 decision of *Dillon and McHugh JJ* and in the 1999 decision of *Smith J*.

Discussion

30. Both parties agree that the 1975 agreement outlines the correct procedure for the election of Tinomana Ariki. The agreement is set out in full as follows:

NOTICE FOR TINOMANA ARIKI TITLE

WE the family of Tinomana Ariki hereby confirm that we have elected NAPA TAUEI NAPA, a member of the Oakirangi family to hold the Ariki title of Tinomana.

We confirm that from today onward the Ariki title of Tinomana be elected in the following manner-

(a) There are three families of Tinomana Ariki today from three wives of Enuarurutini, Tepori-a-Pa, Oakirangi a Tangiau and Akaiti-a-Rua.

(b) The title to rotate in these ways:

(i) Napa Tauei Napa will hold the title on behalf of the Oakirangi family.

(ii) When Napa Tauei napa dies the family of Akaiti-a-Rua will elect a new Tinomana from their family.

(iii) When Tinomana from Akaiti dies Tepori-a-Pa family will elect a new Tinomana from their family.

(iv) When Tinomana from Tepori-a-Pa dies it will go back to the family of Oakirangi to elect a new Tinomana.

(v) This is to be the system forever.

© When the holder of the title is elected then they refer it to the House of Ariki of Ngati Tinomana and that Ngati Tinomana will confirm it. The Ngati Tinomana have the right to the Ariki or refuse any decision from any family. When the Ngati Tinomana confirms the Ariki then the speaker of the Ngati Tinomana will notify the elders (Mataiapo and Rangatira) and the people of the Vaka (clan).

31. In *Vaineritua v Hosking (1994)*, Hillyer JA noted that the same person who prepared both the English and Maori versions of the agreement, also wrote an article "The Choosing of a new Ariki" which reads as follows:

After Tinomana III the Kopu Ariki will choose who will hold the title of Tinomana. The selection of the new Ariki will (then) not be as troublesome as the election of Tinomana Napa, because the Kopu Ariki (now) understands that-

1. The Kopu Ariki alone will select the new Ariki.

2. The one that will hold the title of Tinomana Napa, will have to be chosen from the descendants of Akaiti as agreed upon in the agreement drawn up and agreed by the Tinomana family.

When Tinomana Napa passes away, the Tinomana family will meet to decide who will be the new Ariki. The Ariki family will be told that the Akaiti line will have to choose one amongst them to hold the title. Then the Akaiti line will meet and choose someone capable among themselves to be the Ariki of Puaikura. Maybe that there will be some disagreement amongst them or maybe they will not have any problems with the selection of one. Nevertheless they are not the ones to elect the Ariki they are only to choose a candidate to hold the title, it will be the Tinomana family that will confirm who will be the new Ariki. That was the agreement that was agreed upon.

If the Tinomana family agrees then that person will be the new Ariki but if that person is not accepted by the Ariki family then they will reject that person, then the Akaiti line will have to meet again to choose a new candidate. It will continue like that until they bring forward a candidate that will be accepted by the Ariki family to hold the title...

32. Both parties support the 1994 decision in *Vaineritua v Hosking*. The Court of Appeal found in that case that the intention of 1975 agreement is clear, stating:

If the Ngati Tinomana objected to (or rejected) the decision of the Akaiti-a-Rua branch that branch would then have to choose another candidate. If that was not the position, the whole point of the rotation would have been lost. The parties had agreed that the title should rotate. There would be an election, selection or nomination by the Akaiti-a-Rua branch of the family. That candidate would be put forward to the Kopu Ariki. The Kopu Ariki would have the right to confirm or reject that nomination from the Akaiti-a-Rua line but not to put forward someone else to be the candidate.

33. The submissions of the applicant refer to a meeting taking place on 30 July 2014, referred to as the "first electoral meeting," which I take to be the meeting of Isaia and Tepori where it was decided that Matarii Vaineritua would be put forward as candidate for the title. However, no minutes of that meeting were provided by either of the parties. As stated above a report of the meeting was presented at the meeting of 29 August.

34. I do not accept the submission of the applicant that the Kopu Ariki rejected Matarii Vaineritua as Tinomana Ariki at the 29 August meeting. It was simply never put to the meeting. Before any resolution was made, the Taromi line presented their own candidate, in opposition to the resolution of the 29 July meeting that Isaia and Tepori present a single candidate to the meeting.

35. Notwithstanding the evidence of Archer Hosking, and the fact that the minutes record that the Chairman advised the meeting that the resolution to accept Matarii Vaineritua was defeated, the minutes do not record such a resolution being ever put. The election of a candidate was returned to Tepori-a-Pa to elect a new candidate on the basis that the previous one had been rejected.

36. In accordance with the 1975 agreement

, the Ngati Tinomana has the right to confirm or refuse the decision

High Court finds election of Tokerau Munro to the Tinomana Ariki Title was not valid as per 1975 agreement

From page 13

of a family. The decision to present Matarii Vaineritua was neither confirmed nor refused by the Nati Tinomana. The respondents were entitled, having been given the right to present a candidate at the first meeting, to have that candidate considered.

37. Tokerau Munro has not been validly elected in accordance with the agreement, which both parties have accepted is the applicable custom with respect to s409. The application must therefore fail.

Where to from here?

38. Because of the confusion that has developed, parties need to essentially go back to square one. That is, to the last agreement of the Kopu which was in accordance with the 1975 agreement. That is the decision on 29 July 2013 that the Isaia and Tepori sub-Kopu decide a candidate for the title. The Kopu elected Matarii Vaineritua, and the Kopu Ariki now need to meet to either confirm or reject her as Tinomana Ariki.

39. Should the Kopu Ariki reject her, the process would need to start again. In terms of the 1975 agreement, Tepori-a-Pa must elect a new candidate to put to the Kopu Ariki to either confirm or reject.

Summary

40. For the reasons set out above, the application is dismissed.

41. A copy of this decision is to go to all parties.

Dated at Wellington this 15th day of October 2014.

W W Isaac

JUSTICE

Handball: Update of competition Round 1 on Tuesday 14th October

Game 1: Avengers 27 vs PJs 19 Top scorers from Avengers were Cruz Robati on 13 points and Phillip Roi second to him on 6. Although it was good to see our national teams playing in PJs. Always room for improvement and as they are moulding it is important to be realistic and put them into a situation where they will learn that losing is the next best thing to a good performance.

Game 2: Legends 22 vs TMKs 19. It was good to see yellow cards again being handed to players and it was awesome to see all our ex-players back home some for good and some for a visit. Overall a good game with lots of silly mistakes in passing the ball to our players. Its amazing how you could just be standing free and in a good position to shoot and your team mate throws you a pass as if to say "I don't want you to score". Honestly in order to win a game you need to give the ball to who is in the best position to score regardless. Minor errors that could have increased or levelled the score line.

Game 3: Justice League 22 vs No Experience TCI 13 What an exciting game to watch teams that come each week whom all work together just to have a sweat out. Well done to these two committed teams and their management from their respective workplaces such as MFEM and Telecom should be proud of them?

A big Kia Orana to ex-players who have returned and it was a good feeling amongst our handball family to have you guys reunited with us even if it was for a couple of hours on the court. Welcome home Temaru Goodwin, Andrew Winchester, Bernardo Winchester and Jacob Aue. There is no place like Home.

Draw for next week Tuesday 21st October 2014

Game 1	5.45pm	PJs vs Justice League
Game 2	6.35pm	TCI vs TMKz
Game 3	7.25pm	Avengers vs Legends

Boxing: what's coming up

By Charles Pitt

Boxing fans may be wondering what's happening in the boxing scene and what can be expected in the near future.

Well boxing fans, the Herald has been following up on boxing matters and this is what can be reported;

1. A few dedicated Executive Board members, Trish Barton and Doreen Titoa, have been working away quietly in an effort to revive boxing activity.

2. The International Boxing Association based in Switzerland has required all boxing associations to bring their country rules into line with new requirements which means the Cook Islands Association has had to amend its Constitution accordingly. This enormous task which began before former Senior Vice President of CI boxing Navy Epati, passed away, has been done and the draft has been with a local lawyer being checked. The CI Association has been required to change its name to remove the reference to "Amateur" as the Association will now be able to oversee professional fights.

3. The current Treasurer Trish Barton is to attend the World Congress of Boxing in Korea early November and she will also submit our amended Constitution to the International Boxing Association for approval. Before she heads for Korea, she hopes to discuss our Constitution with other Pacific delegates who are part of Oceania Boxing.

4. Once our Constitution has been approved by the legal division of the International Boxing Association, an AGM will be called to adopt the new Constitution and to elect a new Executive Board.

5. Local boxing clubs will be entitled to have a member on the Executive Board.

6. In future, CI Boxing Clubs will be affiliated to the Association and will be empowered to organize their own activities such as for fundraising and local boxing tournaments, independently of the Association.

7. The Association Executive Board will oversee affiliations to Oceania Boxing and the International Association. The Association will oversee compliance with the Constitution and local rules. It will also oversee national events for national titles and registration and training of officials and national selection of boxers to represent the CI at international boxing tournaments and also Games like the Pacific Games, Mini Pacific Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games.

8. The Association will be affiliated to CISNOC as a National Sports Federation and seek funding for national programmes and attendance at international sports events to represent the CI.

9. The Association will also plan for activities to commemorate 100 years of boxing in the CI, next year.

So boxing fans, keep an eye out later in the year for more word on the upcoming AGM and come along if you wish to play a part in the future of boxing in the CI. Boxing can use more Referees, Judges, Trainers and other officials.

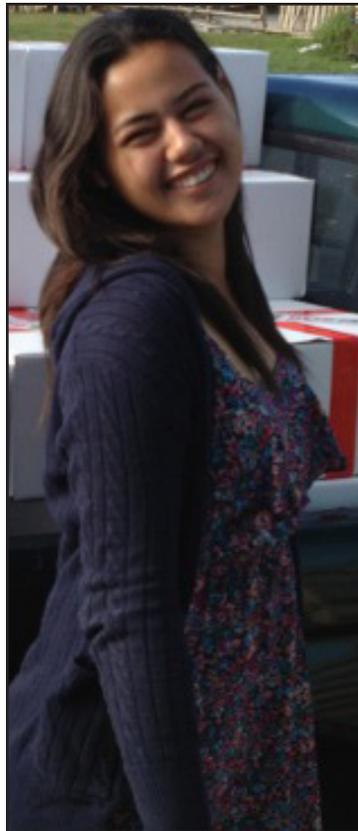
Back to school Home made pizza

By Nadia George

My first week back at school and already I've been thrown into the deep end with assessment after assessment with the first one being my school magazine concepts for my digital technology class.

Over the holidays I had tried to finish up this assessment and do as much as I could be for school started but with limited access to the programs I needed to use and some important bits of paper falling out of my books while I was on my trip in Australia, this made for a very difficult task for me to complete. Luckily our teacher has given us an extra day or two to work on it and now I'm really trying to get this over and done with so I can focus on other things like my externals. Which is weird because I've never been one for studying, weeks in advance. I've always been the last minute make it or break it type of person. Which hasn't done me any favors but I haven't slipped up yet.

For the first week back our English class had also done their speech assessment but luckily for myself and my friend Teora, we had done our presentation prior to our departure to Australia so we had the chance to sit back and enjoy some pretty cool speeches, but better than that, we were able to watch all our friends freak out about theirs. Not trying to sound like a big shot seeing as I also freaked out before my own presentation, I mean who wouldn't right? You're not normal if you don't freak out at least a couple times before a speech or presentation and believe you me; I have had



my fare share of freak-outs for the year.

Finally there's the media trailer that I've been meaning to work on for the past month now but I just haven't gotten around to it. I wish I could say it's because I had been so busy but I'm a master of procrastination, so I guess you could pretty much say that I've got it down to a fine art.

Not much has happened during my first week back at school. I wish I had a much more exciting article for you all to read this week but all the days have gone past in a blur and inspiration just hasn't struck me yet. Perhaps with this long weekend lurking just around the corner something exciting will happen and ill have a fantastic story to tell you all, but for now, this is all I've got.

With a couple more weeks left in this term and prize-giving coming up, I grow anxious awaiting wait the future has in store for me.

By Tiana Haxton

On Mitiaro, we live off of the land and the sea; our nature food baskets/kete manga natura.

Above ground, there are sun ripened fruits (with vitamins) like banana, breadfruit, chilli, coconut, limes, mango and pawpaw; even sugar cane to place in your fruit bowl/kumete.

Below ground there are (minerals in root vegetables) kumara, maniota, taro and tarua and I must include leafy vegetables with its medicinal value of wild sage/miri, dill/taretare and caladium leaves/rau taro. This completes our vegetarian component of diet here.

inally, for healthy teeth, bone and muscle maintenance we need to ensure catches of protein overland; free ranging chickens, fruit engorged woodpigeons, freshwater eels and home fed and penned pigs.

Under the sea is sea foods; crustaceans, fish, octopus, crayfish, sea grapes, sea cucumber, sea spaghetti, and shellfish like sea snails.

Being predominantly self sufficient, there are no cafes, restaurants or takeaway shops here on Mitiaro yet a pizza place would be nice. As is, there is 'Pa's store', a '...Bakery' and a Grower/Poultry farmer to boost any and all we make at home; culinary delights whether it be traditional foods or imported foods or a fusion of these recipes.

Pa's Store stocks and sells essentials. They carry dry, canned and frozen goods. They even dabble in supplying haberdashery, hardware and stationery.

They are also domestic supplier of fuel(s); diesel, petrol and premixes of diesel and petrol. Predominantly, the diesel and petrol is for the powering of motor-vehicles, and the ready to use premixes are for the running of generators and chainsaws.

As a family we are partial to purchasing almond slithers, cocktail onions, gherkins... these are recent additions to the provision of Pa's Store. Ice cream and cones is another treat to share and enjoy. It is often heard that visitors exclaim

that there is a good selection of wines on offer here not that I'm of age to partake of these fortified beverages however a red is said to complement pizza.

'Pepeka Bakery' regularly makes bread buns by the tray-full and ringed doughnuts for a change from eating bread. Very occasionally they are known to produce doughnuts with a variation; these are oblong in shape, sliced along its length then filled with jam and cream.

Notably, 'Pa's Store has a standing order of these baked goods and are the outlet to buy from on Tuesdays/Ra rua, Thursdays/Maanama and Saturdays/Maanakai. Pepeka Bakery welcomes bulk orders for family and business occasions alike.

Another resourceful local 'Tokai' and 'family Tokai', keep chickens and endeavour to maintain required chicken feed levels to ensure a steady supply of eggs to sell. This dynamic can be a challenge for the feed is sourced from Rarotonga; and there can be shipping delays hampering timely delivery of the hormone supplemented feed and hormone induced egg laying. Mitiaro has a ready supply of eggs and once in a while Pa's store will order eggs in from Rarotonga as well to maintain supply and demand.

I enjoy sharing home baked treats. Mum and mum's partner Ron, are forever suggesting I tidy up as I create in our culinary workspace. Inadvertently, I impress family and friends with Jewish poached bagels, continental cakes, Spanish sugar coated churros, French croissants and Italian origin pizza. Try this topping combination; Olive oil pan fried chicken with Wild sage/miri leaves, onion and tomato; salt and pepper.

NB: Cheese is modern and optional. Pan fry your home made (ready to cook) dough bases smothered with topping in a very hot electric frying pan; this pan is perfect for baking; complete with its deep domed lid.



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

FAO World Food Day

The FAO World Food Day event was held last week Friday 17th October 2014 at the Punanga Nui Market. An initiative lead by the Ministry of Agriculture supported by government agencies; the Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB), National Environment Services (NES), Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) and Public Health Services. Minister of Agriculture, Hon Kiriau Turepu officially opened the ceremony of events followed by a commemoration by Dr Matairangi Porea on behalf of FAO Director General. This event was a good opportunity for local farm groups and individual farmers to profiteer from the sale of their locally grown produce – beans, eggplants, lettuce, bok choy, coriander, parsley, tomatoes, kumara and taro to name a few. Fruit tree plants and locally grown plants were in demand and sold at on the day. The Staff of the Ministry of Marine Resources were kept busy frying fish on the BBQ and selling fresh fish, shell-fish and the likes. The trainee-chefs of the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI) served up a delightful eggplant dish with local ingredients – Kai Reka eggplant fritters with tomato, onion and cucumber relish. To complement this eggplant dish, the students served a tropical smoothie made from guava puree, uto, coconut and pineapple. The event was a success as it showcased the best of Cook Islands locally grown fresh produce and food from the ocean and land to our tables.



Business Development : Farming Support Programme

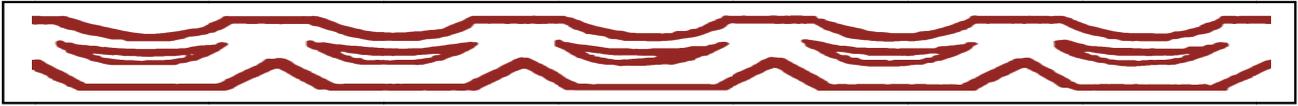
By the end of the second day of the program, the 14 participants of the program were able to develop a basic business plan and understand the concept of what's required to prepare a business plan to start and potentially grow their businesses. Group activities included an exercise where the participants were put into groups of 4 and were to come up with a business idea in which they identified throughout the first week of training. They then had to prepare a business plan based on the business idea they came up with and then had to prepare costing for the business along with a cash flow.

Speakers of the program included Kurai Foster of the Tax Department who provided a presentation brief about tax obligations as a business owner; Restaurant association representative Gerrard Kaczmarek, who talked about preference of buying local produce as opposed to imported produce and CITC representatives David Rangitua and Vaike Tairi who talked about retail requirements from a buyers perspective and the products they have in store for farmers.

The programme also included presentations by Mr William Wigmore and Mr Brian Tairea from the Ministry of Agriculture who gave some pointers of the importance of farming planning, management, suitable crop varieties, crop rotation (all year round) and the impact and effects of chemicals on soil, plants and animals.

A big Meitaki Maata to the participants, speakers and organizers of the Program.

TE REO MĀORI



na Rutera Taripo

Kia Ūpoko-tū!

Ta`i, rua, toru, `ā!
Ngō`ie `ua kia akatātā
`Ō atu tātou kī mūa
Rima, ono, `itu, varu!
Aru 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!

Let it flourish!

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!

Nō te Ora/Taime, `ē te Tuātau

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. `E ora tēia
`E uāti tēia | 1. This is a clock
This is a watch |
| 2. `E a`a tēia/tēnā/tērā? | 2. What is this/that(near you)/that
(away from us)? |
| 3. `E ora tēnā. | 3. That (near you) is a clock. |
| 4. <u>`E a`a te ora i tēia nei?</u> | 4. <u>What is the time now?</u> |
| 5. `E ora `ā te ora (i tēia nei) | 5. It is 4 o`clock (now) |
| 6. `E ta`i-nga`uru-mā-ono meneti
<u>`i pāti i te ora itu</u> | 6. It is 16 minutes <u>past</u> 7 |
| 7. `E `āpa tēia no te ora iva | 7. It is now half past nine |
| 8. Kua vaitata i te tuaero | 8. It is nearly 12 o`clock |
| 9. <u>Ā`ea koe e `akaoti ei?</u> | 9. <u>When are you finishing?</u> |
| 10. Ākonei ake i te ora rima | 10. Later on at 5 o`clock |
| 11. Āpōpō i te avatea-pū | 11. Tomorrow at midday/noon |
| 12. Ā tērā`o atu pōpōngi | 12. On the morning after tomorrow |
| 13. Ā tēia Varaire ki mua | 13. Next Friday |
| 14. Ā tēia mata`iti roa ki mua | 14. Until next year |
| 15. Ākōneinei ake! | 15. 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	

A walk down memory lane



Cook Islands Trading Corporation Avarua Shopping Centre staff photo taken in 2002.

Living above average

part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

God never meant for you and I to live an average life. We are designed for excellence!

God designed and purposed that we, His creation would live in victory and dominion-ship! To rule and to reign! God called us to do great works for Him, He purposed for us to be achievers! We were never designed by God to be average. Too often God's people settle for less, too often we are self accepting of a lot less than what God has for us. When we start seeing ourselves as God does, then we become to realise that to settle for anything less, is to deny ourselves of God's interest for our lives. In the Old Testament Book of I Chronicles 4v.9-10 is a story of a man called Jabez (Iabeza). The question is "What sets Jabez apart from the crowd?" Here in the midst of 600 other names, his name stands out as a man who was above the average. If we are going to learn anything about living above average from Jabez, then it starts with having a Dream! If we want to start living above the average:

1. WE NEED A DREAM!

Jabez had a Dream that God would give him more land! In I Chronicles 4v.10 Jabez called to the God of Israel "...Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory." The difference between young Joseph in the Old Testament and his average brothers was that, he had a dream. Joseph knew that he was destined (or purposed) for great things because he had a dream. I don't know the dream God has laid on your heart, I don't know how He has challenged you to do something great for Him. If you don't have a life dream then I encourage you to seek God earnestly in that direction. People who have a dream stand out in the crowd. Dare to dream of something great for your life, dare to dream great works you can do for God. Jabez thought big and he spoke big "...bless me and enlarge my territory." In v.10

it says "...so God granted him what he requested." Ask God for a DREAM, "...old men..." says the Prophet Joel (Joel 2v.28) "...shall dream dreams and young men shall see visions."

2. WE NEED A GROWING FAITH

We need to believe that God can accomplish the dream through us. Jabez not only had a Great DREAM, but he CONFESSED it. The Book of Romans tells us that "Faith comes by hearing..." (Romans 10v.17). As we CONFESS our Dream we hear it, and we become inspired, and we become committed to it because we have confessed it! It charges us with hope and belief that it can be accomplished. In Mark 9v.23 Jesus tells us that "Everything is possible for him who believes." Young Joseph in the Old Testament spoke out his dream, he confessed it, by his confession, that dream was permanently imbedded, it was implanted within his spirit, giving him hope in his afflictions - when he went through numerous challenges and difficult times. No dream is without it's opposition, that's why Jabez said, "...keep me from evil." Jabez was a man of no special talent but he had a growing faith, he believed in his confession to God.

When you add confession to your dream it builds up your faith! Don't confuse small thinking with spirituality. When people speak doubt and inability over their lives we think that they are humble. When someone talks of greatness in God and believing for big things we say they are arrogant and proud. God designed us for accomplishment.

Paul recognized that when he said in Philippians 4v.13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Daniel 11v.32 says "The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

Friend, what's arrogant and proud about believing and confessing the Word of God?

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



We think, if we put ourselves down that's being humble and spiritual. God meant for us to be raised up and not put down. Thinking big requires you to stretch your faith to the limit. That's how you develop a growing faith. A big dream and a big confession requires a big faith. Jesus had to rebuke His disciples several times because He questioned their faith. Jesus said "You

are people of little faith." In Luke 17v.5 the apostles said to Jesus "Increase our faith." The disciples came to understand that their faith was 'stagnant', it was so small when it could have been much bigger. 1. Seek God for a DREAM! 2. Believe God can accomplish things through you. I will conclude Part 2 of this Article of Encouragement next week. God bless, te Atua te aroa.

Valedictory Speech!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello again, my dear readers! To be honest, I was seriously stuck on what to write for this week's article, but I was struck with an ingenious idea: I'll just type up my valedictory speech for y'all! How about that? It saves me time and energy so here's a brief look at my speech (the original is way too long. It's about nine minutes)

"Get up! Get up and go to school!" These are the words of inspiration that my mother uses when I feel less than inspired. We are all in our final year of high school, but each and every one of us has a unique story to tell about our time here, at Tereora College. Here's my story, the survival story about a girl who endured all sorts of hardships during the five years she spent at Tereora and how she emerged as a fully-matured and accomplished adult.

It was 2010 and I was a Year 9 student, fresh-off-the-bus from Avarua Primary School. I distinctively remember feeling two things as I walked past that school sign: nerves and excitement. Nerves, because Tereora was a new school with new fears to face, and excitement because I was attending the national school of the country. It was a lot for a thirteen-year-old to process. I remember there being classrooms as far as the eye could see and a platoon of students marching up and down the hill. I had literally been plonked in unfamiliar surroundings.

Year 10 came and went. I realised that I had managed to survive an entire year at Tereora College and was one step up the food chain. Science was like an obstacle course because I could never get my head around things like osmosis and atoms. I look back and wonder how I managed to pass any of my



Science papers. I remember Year 10 being kicked back and chilled. I didn't really take things seriously back then. I just wanted to live it up while I was still a junior student of Tereora.

The 2012 was upon us. The beginning of my NCEA journey. I had decided that I was going to own Year 11 with my incredible know-how and skills. One thing that stood out in Year 11 was how much of a distraction my friends were! They were always jeopardising my school work! We were always laughing at nothing in particular. Despite the stress, Year 11 turned out to be an awesome year.

And then it was 2013, and I was a fully fledged Year 12 student. That was when Tereora College changed its system to the Anau system. I thought it was annoying at first but my opinion changed as the year passed. I loved my classmates! I had made some new friendships amongst the juniors.

And now, I stand before you as a Year 13 student, a senior of the school. I started from the bottom and now I'm here. Tereora College has most certainly helped to mould me into the person that I am today.

Chooks extra

New harbours everywhere these days, they're dime a dozen it seems but at what cost? Nice to look at, photograph, walk on, eat on, dance on but what now? Eh? Where is the inter-island ship the Chinese allocated us \$8 million to design and build? Eh? Are our poor outer island coussie bros going to stare all day at a mass of concrete down by the shore? Eh? The Samoans did the right thing. They went ahead with their Chinese offer and now have a vessel. You know the one chooks. We borrowed it once.



Giant white elephants roaming the outer islands chooks? Government has poured millions of borrowed dolleros not to mention concrete, into infrastructure projects in the sister islands for what return on investment? Is the investment being followed up by private sector developments that will kick start the economy on the road to prosperity? How does government plan to stimulate the private sector into action? Does government have a strategy? Or is all the work going to languish for years as a giant white elephant not to mention financial burden and headache!



Tomatoes, tomatoes everywhere chooks! And more are on the way! There are so many of these red things around, their price has collapsed so how can growers make a decent return? Stop all trying to grow the same thing! Some of you grow something else! How can you attract young ones into an industry which has no sensible direction and earning power?



El Capitano of a tourist sail boat, reports that while out on the high seas, several whales swam up to the boat and gave the tourists a huge thrill! Whereupon, the noted Whale Guardian out on patrol of the waves, let rip with commands to El Capitano not to approach the giants of the sea! There were yells suggesting a suitable distance but El Capitano in protest, yelled back that it was the giants of the deep who were encroaching within the 100 metre boundary, not the boat!



It has been suggested chooks that next games up north, if the infrastructure does not suit the game, then change the game! If playing fields are not regulation condition, then come up with a modified game to suit! For instance, instead of 11 a side soccer on a sandy pitch, play five a side! If there is no oval athletic track to scamper 400 metres in a circle, then run 400 metres in a straight line down main street! Adaptation is the name of the game!

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Looks like the Demo camp has some hidden agendas when it comes to leadership issues. While Smiley Heta is the interim Leader of the Opposition there is no interim deputy leader. The deputy gets an extra legitimate \$5,000 a year from the civil list so at a \$100 a week someone is missing out to the tune of \$1,500 so far. The CIP wouldn't let that opportunity to go a miss. Or is it a case of not letting anyone in the Demo caucus get a feel and taste of being a leader while the former leader is clinging to the false hope of crow barring Willie J's seat off him? Whatever happened to the Conference that was deferred till straight after the elections? The Demos need to get on with the job and not be stalled hanging on till Drollet and Wilkie's personal fantasies of continued control and power are evaporated.



What happened to the outer island election of Mayors and Council members? Weren't they supposed to be held three months after the General Elections? Or is it there is no money in Treasury for the local elections? And how come the Acting Opposition Leader Smile Heta isn't in the media taking the CIP Government to task for the lack of action on the home front while Elvis keeps leaving the building to jet set around the world first class?



We have a Police Commissioner and a Public Service Commissioner then an Energy Commissioner and a Commissioner for Seabed Minerals and now a Commerce Commissioner. Wow, what a buzz word, what if the private sector decided to create a few Commissioners of their own? I nominate the Red Rooster to be the Gossip Commissioner.



The bearded neneva Talebani couldn't

help himself crowing in a letter to the daily internet news about the law being passed and the Grey Power now have to pay tax on their hard earned pensions. So quick to preach the obedience of the law for others yet he continues to break the law by taxing the local pension. Don't expect any favours if the Demos win a few appeals and the CIP government gets the buff.



Heard about the Samoan rugby player who formerly played for the Reds last year but this time was poached by Avatiu. The eager lot at the swamp overlooked the fact the last time Sole was here he ended up in Court and got a red card. Star player or not the Samoan didn't get past the immigration officers at the airport; he was put back on the plane and sent packing. That's \$1500 or half the cost of a uniform set down the drain. Wasn't the Avatiu anti import mantra something like "We don't buy stars we make them."



The way is now clear chooks for the CIP to call their conference. PM Tuna is now safe from a leadership challenge from his DPM and all thanks to the tandem tag act between PM Tuna and his sucker fish Brown Marks! By moving the motion of confidence

in PM Tuna in the house, the DPM cannot now challenge for the CIP leadership! But chooks, where was the DPM's tactician? Where was his Political Strategist?



The Manea Games in Mauke are over but many young Raro based Maukeans who gave up their jobs for two weeks, gave up their school holidays, missed their Tereora College ball to return to Mauke at some cost to represent their island, are upset that they were constantly referred to as the "Rarotongans." Even Mauke's Mayor got in on the act. Shame! The loyal young ones also complained to the Mauke MP! Many young ones from Mauke have no choice but to leave the island to find work or attend College so why run them down? If these young ones did not return for the Games, Mauke would have few competitors.



Why do we tolerate foreigners who overstay their welcome? Other countries kick these bods out! Whisper is one new age type is trying to hang on by offering locals some Counseling in exchange not for money (a work permit would be required) but payment by "kind," -food, materials. There are already counseling services on the island

run by locals. Wake up Immigration and do your job! Wake up BTIB and check if this bod is trying to set up a business! Someone in government wake up-you can't all be asleep!



Chook who recently slipped over in wet weather, asks who is the brainless dawk who ordered cheap plastic Flojo brand jandals for sale in Rarotonga? These plastic jandals are useless on tile floors and wet wooden steps. They have no grip! Get it? No grip! Hence the poor chook slipping up. Chook says it's time people ordering items for retail sale wake up and order items that are useful!



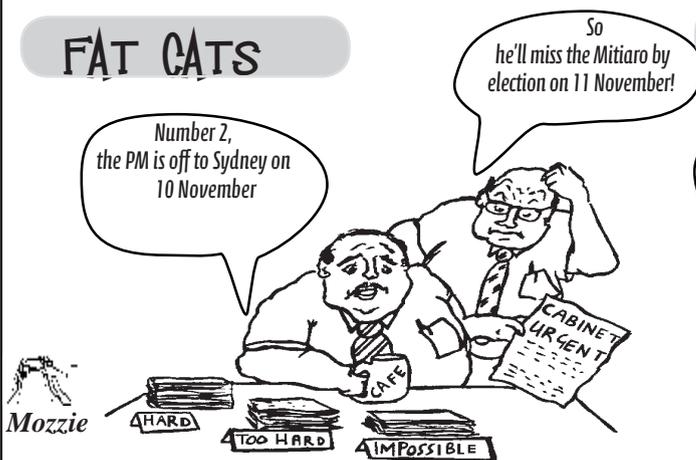
PM Tuna is now getting his plumage preened ready to wing it to Sydney to hop onto our Vaka before it sails through Sydney Heads. How is PM Tuna to make the transition to the Vaka? Will he be lowered by chopper or hop across from a boat? Don't fall into the water PM, the great White Pointers just love tuna!



We may have gone through some sort of charade chooks where parliament is concerned with nominations, false motions, swearing ins and appointments but the fact remains there is still the possibility of a change of government. Four seats are still to be decided. One by way of a by-election and three by appeal. One of those appeals may result in a by-election. The sorry fact is the current lot are still an interim, caretaker government so why aren't they behaving accordingly? Trouble is the head rooster is so puffed up he is in danger of floating away-from his flock! There are some peacocks strutting around MFEM and the OPM as though all is honky dory. These ex-pats may be in for a rude shock if the other lot come in!



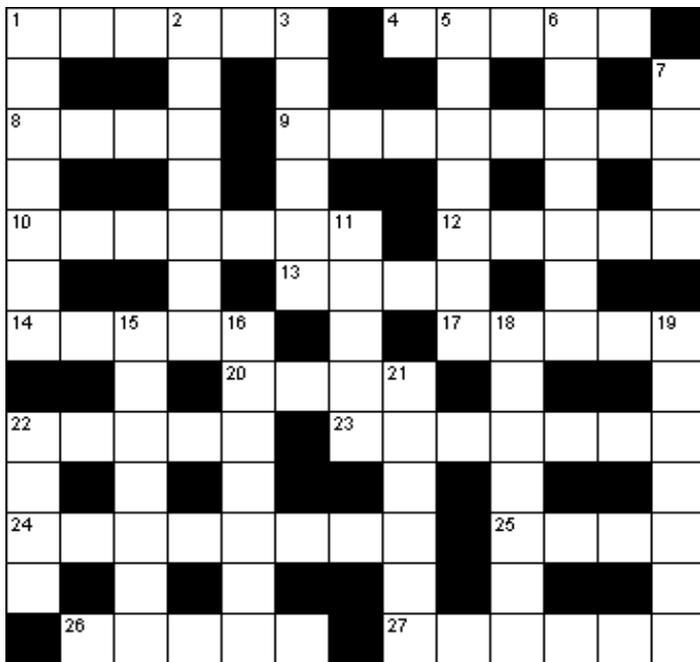
FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



CROSSWORD

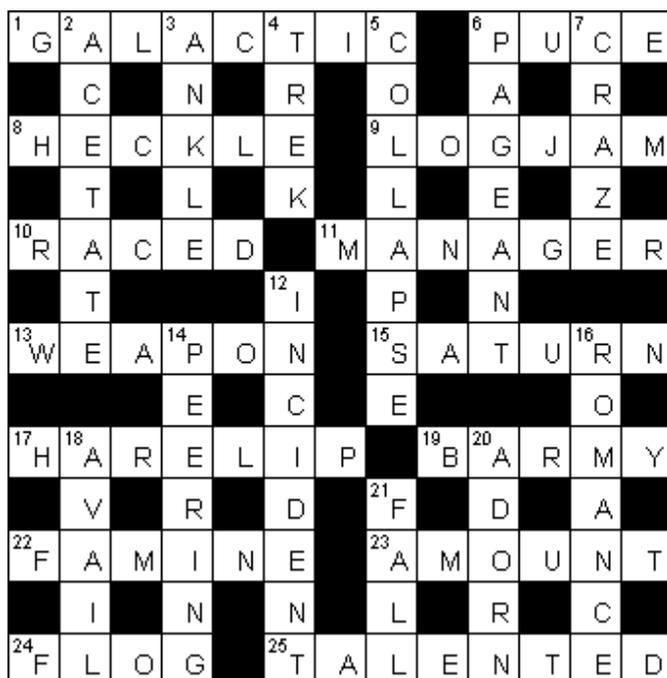


Across

- 1. Mistake (4-2)
- 4. Female sovereign (5)
- 8. Young bears (4)
- 9. Everybody (8)
- 10. Satan (7)
- 12. Brilliant (5)
- 13. Crop planted for its oil (4)
- 14. Mends a shoe (5)
- 17. Hungarian composer (5)
- 20. Garden tools (4)
- 22. Compel (5)
- 23. Stored away (7)
- 24. Large hill (8)
- 25. Repeat (4)
- 26. Inheritors (5)
- 27. Move with great speed (6)

Down

- 1. Reaping-hooks (7)
- 2. Hobby (7)
- 3. Like better (6)
- 5. Disentangle (7)
- 6. Develops in stages (7)
- 7. Give food to (4)
- 11. Taxes (5)
- 15. Unhurried ease (7)
- 16. Refuge (7)
- 18. Underwriter (7)
- 19. Larva of frogs (7)
- 21. Stink (6)
- 22. Let fall in a mass (4)



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TENDER



Te Aponga Uira

TENDER - STUDY FOR PUMPED HYDRO SCHEMES

Te Aponga Uira is inviting suitably qualified groups to submit a tender for a pre-feasibility study into pumped hydro schemes on Rarotonga.

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

TAU Project Manager – Alex Napa

Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Ph: +682 20054

Fax: +682 21944

Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

Closing date for the Tender submission is 3pm Wednesday 12th Nov 2014, Cook Islands time.

For general enquiries please contact

Alex Napa on 682 – 20054

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- Have a passion for the hospitality industry;
- Be courteous and helpful, ensuring guest satisfaction at all times;
- Have worked on Hotel PMS systems ideally RoomMaster.

Candidates must be flexible and able to work rostered shifts which include weekends and public holidays. Hours will be approx. 30 - 40 per week.

To apply: email: work@pacificresort.com
or call – Himiwa on 28140 ext. 1956

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Water Consumers on Rarotonga's Public Water Supply that there shall be joint – work undertaken by GHD/Infrastructure Cook Islands – Waterworks division as part of Te Mato Vai Water Supply improvement upgrade project.

There will be Low pressure of Water Outage in the Area Water Zone due to uPVC pipeline Trunk water main Leak Detection test program as set out for the following areas in the table below:

WATER INTAKE	SHUT OFF DATE	SHUTT OFF TIME
Matavera trunk water main pipeline	Wednesday 22 October	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Tupapa trunk water main pipeline	Thursday 23 October	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Ngatote trunk water main pipeline	Friday 24 October	1.00pm to 3.00pm
Taipara trunk water main pipeline	Saturday 25 October	9.00am to 11.00am

We apologize for the inconvenience that may arise during the 2 hours water pipeline pressure and leak test. Consumers are advised to conserve water needed for the duration of the test.

APPRECIATION

APPRECIATION AND THANKS

From the Baker family for

Kate Daisy Baker

(nee Estall)

**Known as Dolly, Mama Dolly, Aunty Dolly
18 March 1920-31 May 2014**

We thank you, family and friends for the love and support shown to us at this time, for attending Mum's funeral-her last farewells in Auckland on 5 June and 9 June in Rarotonga. We also appreciate the help with arrangements, for the work done and for your generosity.

We acknowledge family and friends from Mum's past life: Maurice, her husband, former CITC and other work colleagues and long time friends from early NZ administration days. More recently, those at Are Pa Metua, the 60's up Women's Group and Friday Lunch Ladies were important to her.

Finally, we are grateful for the service of Filipino caregivers and their community, the Rarotongan Health and Social Welfare Organisations and the churches: Doctors Aung and Teapa, Te Vaerua Rehab, the Catholic, CICC, Apostolic and other churches for your prayers, support and gifts of food.

Mum had a long and abundant life on beautiful Rarotonga as part of the community. For this we are grateful.

From er children-Joan, Hugh, Cheridah and Peter.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

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Sunday at 10.30am

EAT LESS

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Atiu feast bowl on display in National Museum of Scotland

This massive feast bowl, known as an umete, comes from Atiu, one of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. At 12 feet long, it can hold up to 300 gallons and would have been used at large communal feasts to serve a food called poi. A range of food plants, including sweet potato, yams, taro and plantain, are typically used to make poi, which is prepared by mashing the flesh of the plant with a heavy stone pounder and mixing it with coconut milk.

Feast bowl fact file

On display: Grand Gallery, National Museum of Scotland
Made in: Atiu, Cook Islands, South Pacific

Made from: Tamanu wood (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

Dimensions: 36" high, 144" long, 38" wide

Did you know? Titaua adapted well to life in Scotland, and she and George Darsie had three children. She died in 1898 and is buried in Anstruther Easter Churchyard.

Feasting in the South Seas

Feasting played an important role in traditional Cook Islands' culture, with food being a measure of prosperity. Offerings were made to the gods to ensure success in daily activities such as fishing or the planting of crops. Neglect of ritual duties could



cause imbalance in the natural world, whereas abundance indicated that all was well. At feasts, the blessings of the gods were both being sought and being praised. The more lavish the feast, the more honoured the gods.

How was the feast bowl made?

Cook Islanders are expert wood-carvers. The boat-shaped bowl is carved from a single piece of tamanu wood, also known as island mahogany. Tamanu trees have special significance and people are often buried in places where they grow. Although functional objects like this feast bowl are often undecorated,

its immense scale would have emphasised the status of its owner.

The feast bowl's journey to Scotland

In 1871, Parua, the high chief of Atiu, gifted this bowl to a chieftainess of the neighbouring Society Islands and it was transported there by canoe across a distance of over 500 miles.

The bowl was inherited by the Tahitian princess, Titaua, whose second husband was a Scottish businessman, George Darsie. Together they ran a plantation trade and labour business. In 1892, they retired to Darsie's hometown of Anstruther, taking the feast bowl with them. In

1895 Darsie sold a number of objects to the Museum, including the bowl, as well as Polynesian jewellery, tools and a chief's headdress.

Above: Princess Titaua, photographed in Tahiti in 1883. Before her marriage to George Darsie, Titaua was married to John Brander, a Scottish merchant who died leaving her a young widow.

Where is the feast bowl displayed?

The feast bowl stands in the Grand Gallery at National Museum of Scotland, along with other key objects from our collection, as a reminder of the links Scotland shares with the rest of the world.

Blessing ceremony a success

By Charles Pitt

The blessing ceremony held on the evening of 17 October in Invercargill NZ for the Vaka carved by Master Carver Mike Tavioni for the Cook Islands Community in Invercargill, was a great success reports Dr George Ngaei.

Pitt Media Group filmed Tavioni at his Atupa workshop giving the blessing and other information as he was unable to attend the ceremony in person. The footage was then sent to Invercargill via the internet.

According to Dr George, "The quality of the video was good, though we had invested in a \$10,000 system of projector and wide screen. The people loved it. Look forward to having the hard copy."

Dr George said Tiki Matapo the Cook Islands High Commissioner to NZ was the guest of honour among a modest group of "A listers."

Tavioni is yet to provide four paddles so the Vaka may be baptised in the sea (and go fishing).



Appreciation Notice

Nita Hegan

10 July 1927-28 September 2014

Nita's husband Morrie and family thank all those who expressed their condolences on her recent passing.

Your kindness at this time of sorrow is deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Nita's service was Officiated by Father Philip Sullivan at the North Harbour Chapel of Dil's Funeral Services at Schnapper Rock in Albany on Friday 3 October 2014 at 12.30pm. She was then interred at North Shore Memorial Park at 3pm.

Nita, who was from Samoa, spent many years on Rarotonga with husband Morrie who was part of the NZ Administration prior to self government and made many friends.