

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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Allegations of treating taints Democratic Campaign

Rasmussen exaggerating or blatantly lying?

The Democratic Party campaign in the Vaipae/Tautu bye election launched last week has stirred up more controversy than any previous politicking in the constituency say Aitutaki sources. Within a week of the launch the Demos are facing a series of allegations of blatant treating that has been documented by the Cook Islands Party officials as a fall back should they fail to win at the polls.

This will certainly disappoint the public at large who potentially face further delays through Court petition proceedings and possible appeals in resolving who holds the confidence to govern. Prior to the campaign launch One Cook Island Movement leader and Demo campaign manager Teina Bishop went on record in a media release stating people want food and a party. This claim seems to have back fired on Bishop's campaign much to the disappointment of hard core V/T Demo supporters.

Despite the offer of free food at the launch V/T voters and the usually free food mob stayed away in droves. Reports on the night from the Demo candidate Kete Ioane's residence where the gathering was being held said despite the free food normally a welcomed attraction in the cash strapped V/T villages only about 40 people showed up.

A normal scenario would be those in attendance would bring bags to ferry food back to their homes while they feasted at the gathering. Non eligible voters from outside the constituency and children would also be there in hordes.

A good portion of the 40 in attendance were from Bishop's constituency of Nikaupara and a few from Amuri. In attendance was Tupapa's Mr 500 George Maggie, Nane Williams and the Demo duo of Wilkie Rasmussen and Party President Sean Willis.



Kete Ioane pushed into the background.

A good portion of the 40 in attendance were from Bishop's constituency of Nikaupara and a few from Amuri. In attendance was Tupapa's Mr 500 George Maggie, Nane Williams and the Demo duo of Wilkie Rasmussen and Party President Sean Willis.

To the disappointment of several Demo committee members the launch vaguely resembled anything Demo but evident Bishop and the OCI were running the show to the point of being overbearing. One said, "We

have never given free food away to get votes for the last three campaigns, this is not our way of campaigning."

Already the CIP talk of treating has unsettled some of the Demo supporters who are bewildered

and distraught at the free food and beverage strategy of Bishop's campaign. Some are resigned to the possibility there will be a petition if Kete wins but after two weeks the Demo turn out has been dismal. Straight after the launch Rasmussen grabbed the daily media headlines to boast of a great successful launch with 200 people in attendance. This was done to counter act and denigrate a radio report only 40 showed up even at the enticement of free food and drinks.

An OCI report stated there was a big turnout with the Oremetuas supporting Kete to win and the endorsement of Teina Bishop as the Prime Minister. It predicted a win for the Demos and further major rallies on the 15th and 16th prior to the Elections on the 17 February.

The claims of the self deluded Rasmussen are nothing new, his daily unauthorised media releases are becoming a thorn in the Demo Party flesh to the point they don't represent the voice of the vast majority of the Party. Rasmussen's attempts to mislead the general public with blatant lies was corrected by OCI's Maggie who said there wasn't 200 in attendance but about 40 as was reported on Radio Cook Islands and Matariki FM. "I don't know why he didn't tell the truth." Said Maggie.

Since the launch, CIP sources have monitored the continuing inducements of free food, drinks and the delivery of food all sponsored by funds Bishop raised from his claims of just five phone calls when on Rarotonga. CIP sources also claim many Demo supporters are turned off by Bishop's showmanship antics of as if he was the candidate. Rasmussen's campaign focus has been to promote Bishop as a

continued next page

looming Aitutaki Prime Minister rather than his focus being on Kete.

“This OCI driven campaign is more of a promotion of Bishop becoming the Prime Minister and the whole of Aitutaki should rally around him, Kete is becoming a figment in Bishop’s shadow,” said one uncommitted observer. “It gives the appearance this campaign is a Bishop verses CIP tug of war with the candidate Kete lost somewhere in the background.”

Aitutaki Demo claim’s Bishop’s hijacking of their campaign is botching up Kete’s chances of victory are gathering momentum. His inference the V/T Demo committee are incapable of wining without his contribution has alienated some supporters. Those who painstakingly orchestrated Kete’s successful legal challenge that resulted in the by election have been pushed aside in favour of Bishop directing the campaign proceedings. Bishop virtually bought the ownership rights of the campaign with his financial contribution of \$9,000.

The socio economic dynamics of isolated V/T are different from the prosperous tourism and business side of the island and Bishop’s campaign style is foreign and grating.

In his own constituency Bishop’s successful benevolent humanitarian campaign is low key and spread over the four years with little hype during official campaigning leading up to an election. Bishop has imported a campaign style foreign to himself and the V/T Demos and it is failing to attract enthusiasm and voters.

Free food is being delivered and forced upon people because the responses to the OCI driven Demo meetings are dismally low claim CIP sources.

Bishop’s failure to lure fellow “in my bag” Aitutakian CIP MPs Toa Isamaela and Mona loane plus Mauke MP Tai Tura, Aitu’s Rose Brown and Nandi Glassie to follow him in a coalition with the Demos signalled to the bulk of voters in Rarotonga his political pulling influence is overstated and misguided. Rasmussen and Bishop’s up talk OCI involvement is the reason Kete is guaranteed of winning is beginning to leave a sour taste among the Demos and could well back fire if Kete’s Demo team don’t intervene and reclaim ownership of their campaign.

The CIP campaign has been low key and strategically in compliance with the Electoral Act. Prime Minister Henry Puna is confident Mona loane will retain the V/T seat with the voters realising a vote for Mona is a vote for a Cabinet Minister as a vote for Kete is a vote for an MP. In the shadow of Bishop, Kete will forever be obscure. The CIP say Kete is just a number both Bishop and Rasmussen desperately need to serve their own personal political ambitions.

Rarotonga Demos have become highly sceptical of OCI commandeering the V/T campaign while the proposed coalition isn’t a done deal as Rasmussen publically claims it is. A V/T victory only gives the outsider Bishop more weight and influence over the Demo Party. While the Police investigation into a complaint of corruption against Bishop is ongoing many Demos feel he should not be having a high profile prominent role in the V/T campaign.

While the Bishop led campaign launched all their big guns on opening night the CIP will send their heavy artillery into V/T at spaced intervals with X factor the DPM Teariki Heather a key player for Mona. Heather is most likely to time his visit to Aitutaki and capitalise on the good will when the Island receives their China funded heavy machinery. While Bishop’s tactic of questionable vote buying through people’s stomachs is very soon forgotten the CIP will have legitimate long term tangibles to secure voter’s favour.

When asked this week about how his campaign was going Mona’s reply was “great.” Prior to the campaign Mona was giving the appearance of being reserved over his chances of winning but with the boundary issues settled and the Demo turn off against the OCI show he is quietly confident of retaining the seat with a bigger majority.

The CIPs utilisation of Radio Cook Islands’ live broadcasts will be unmatched by the Demo campaigners who are factionalised and divided by the smothering OCI over kill. Both Puna and X factor Heather have crafted radio broadcast skills that draws voters to the CIP unlike Rasmussen and Smiley Heather who more times than not sound unprepared and like the two Ronnie’s comedy act.

- George Pitt



Mona loane - confident of a win



SWITCH ON WITH TE APONGA UIRA

What to do if the power goes out



Sometimes power interruptions are inevitable during cyclone season. If your power goes out - from the safety of your home, look out the window or contact neighbours to check if the interruption is affecting only your property or is more widespread.

If you can see or hear something that could help identify the problem, like a loud bang or hanging power lines, stay well clear and contact us on 25257 giving your home power connection number. Precise details will assist our emergency crews to restore power.

If you’re experiencing dull or flickering lights, ‘brown out’, low voltage or partial supply, turn off and unplug appliances like your refrigerator, television and computer at the power point. Do not touch your switchboard or anything metal in your home and call 25257 immediately.

www.teaponga.com

Withholding tax policy confusing, muddled, hazy

By Charles Pitt

When the Herald last week, published a copy of a notice on the withholding tax sent by one State agency to another State agency, it touched some nerves causing a reaction which saw a number of government officials ducking for cover.

It appears the information was not entirely kosher and rather than accept responsibility, officials, including the PM and Finance Minister made a feeble attempt to shift the blame for the misinformation to

the media stating the media should have checked the accuracy of the statement with MFEM before publishing.

Unless the Finance Minister is not aware, it is not the role of the media to check statements issued by State agencies.

It is no wonder the information sent out by the State agency concerned may not have been entirely correct. The policy is so confusing, muddled and hazy that it has taken a 663 word explanation from MFEM to try and clarify the policy (See MFEM release

below).

So desperate were the PM and his Finance Minister to cover up the error they allegedly attempted over Radio last Friday, to discredit the Editor of the Herald in an deliberate attempt to make a political football out of the issue, knowing full well the Editor is also the National Patron of the One Cook Islands Movement.

Bad policy gives rise to confusion and this government must accept the blame for citizens being so confused that even State

agencies can't get it right. Does the Finance Minister really understand the policy himself?

The withholding tax policy is another example of a vain attempt to create a revenue stream to reduce operating deficits predicted for the next few years by MFEM. So bereft is this administration of any bright ideas for improving the economy, it resorts to taxation as a solution for maintaining government revenue. Unless this government wakes up or steps down, the day is coming when MPs will be forced to take pay cuts.

RMD Numbers and Bank Accounts

The Cook Islands Herald recently outlined that a withholding tax of 30 per cent would apply on interest earned on bank deposits in the Cook Islands, this is not the case. Unfortunately, no attempt was made to verify with MFEM that the article was correct prior to publishing.

In the Cook Islands the only withholding tax which applies on interest earned on bank deposits relates to non-residents of the Cook Islands. Non residents are required to pay a final withholding tax of 15 per cent on interest. No withholding tax applies to interest earned on bank deposits by Cook Islands residents.

The requirement to have RMD numbers linked to bank accounts from 1 January 2015 was made law in December 2013 when the Parliament passed a large number of changes to the Income tax Act.

The changes made at the time significantly decreased the income tax paid by Cook Islanders; removed the 15 per cent withholding tax that applied to interest earned by residents;

and incorporated administrative changes that would assist MFEM to improve its ability to collect taxes (which ultimately pay for public services such health, education and infrastructure) and improve the services it provides to the taxpayers of the Cook Islands.

Currently, there is no technological interface between taxpayers and MFEM. Most of the interactions on taxation are paper based, with taxpayers having to complete manual forms and MFEM staff then inputting those details into the Revenue Management System (RMS).

In a concerted effort to modernise tax collection in the Cook Islands, there will be a two phase improvement of the RMS predominantly focusing on incorporating a web-lodgement system and automatically capturing data from employers and banks.

The first phase will focus on allowing businesses to submit their PAYE and VAT details online and this is expected to be operational by July 2015.

The second phase, will involve

individuals being able to access their details and lodge their tax returns online.

Currently, taxpayers have to do a lot of paperwork to fulfil their obligations and also have to wait some time to get updates from MFEM on tax payment details. The first phase of automation will significantly improve MFEM's ability to service taxpayers in this. The upgraded system will eventually allow individuals and businesses (or their accountants) to:

- access their own taxation information online;
- reduce paperwork between the taxpayer and MFEM;
- lodge their returns online;
- receive updates on returns; and
- lodge their returns whilst out of the country.

There has been some discussion around the requirement for bank account holders to submit RMD numbers to the banks. It is a common practice to require a bank account holder to submit the equivalent of an RMD number or a social security number. In Australia and New Zealand there

is a legal requirement to provide the equivalent of the RMD number. In both countries if this is not submitted a withholding tax applies to both residents and non residents. In Australia this rate is 45 per cent and in New Zealand it is 38 per cent. In the Cook Islands the withholding tax of 15 per cent only applies to non residents of the Cook Islands.

Increasing the use of the RMD number in the overall taxation system is a crucial component to successfully modernising the system to which will ultimately deliver benefits to the taxpayer and the community at large. That is why a requirement that every bank account in the Cook Islands have an RMD number attached to it was introduced. Obviously, it is expected that compliance will also improve and that everyone pays their fair share of tax.

These changes will save taxpayers time in lodging their returns, ensure that the right amount of tax is paid by everyone and reduce the opportunities for people to evade tax for the betterment of the country as a whole.



Herald Columnist Nadia George meets up with One Direction in L.A.

♪♪ From the first of December
Telecom gives to me:
2 gigs for Intro,
4 gigs for Standard,
6 gigs for Value,
8 gigs for Plus,
10 gigs for Super,
& 12 gigs for Megaaaaaaa
Starting from December the 1st
You'll get gigabytes,
For December and
January for FREEEEE



*Merry Christmas
from Telecom Cook Islands*

Starting from the 1st of December all postpaid broadband customers will have additional gigabytes added to their plans for December and January for FREE. Just our way of saying have a happy festive season to all our postpaid broadband customers.

Our Frontpage model

Are we heading this way?

Reprinted from the Samoa Observer

Samoa sold to China?

Monday, 19 January 2015

The Office of the Press Secretariat issued this statement on behalf of Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, to counter claims that Samoa is being sold to China.

The statement is published here in verbatim:

Despite the Government's recent attempts to clarify and correct the misinformation being freely and wilfully propagated by local media organisations, it is disappointing to note that some Parliamentarians are encouraging bigotry with statements that are intended to incite racial derision amongst the people of Samoa.

Should this type of ignorance dictate the Government's agenda, the results would undo the progress and development the country has enjoyed thus far.

The results of that kind of restrictive and intolerant policy would mean No Development, No New Job Opportunities, No Modernization, No Advancement and No Bright Futures for generations to come.

All countries in the world, rich and poor, prioritise foreign investments to encourage economic growth and create employment opportunities for their people. Samoa is successful in attracting foreign investments through grants, concessional loans and specific project investments from development partners.

Those are the results of an effective and progressive Government, working to attract investors like Yazaki

to provide employment and up-skilling opportunities for our people. The absurd claim that the Government is selling the country to a development partner is false, irresponsible and damaging.

Any serious queries regarding the Citizenship Investment Bill can be answered by reading it. Within its 16 pages, the rigorous application and screening process, as well as due diligence requirements and provisions for investment are clearly outlined.

Copies of this Bill can be found on the Parliament website, as well as through the Office of the Press Secretariat.

Thousands of Samoans emigrate yearly with heavy hearts for the more developed shores of New Zealand and Australia where they have better opportunities and brighter prospects for their children. Should Government provide these opportunities locally, we can retain more of our talented people to develop our country.

Leaders of Niue, Cook Islands, Tokelau and other countries in the Pacific similarly lament the departure of their people to seek job opportunities overseas, when they could be contributing to a brighter future for their own homeland.

If Samoa does not continue to develop, then the question must be asked - Why did we ever opt for Independence?

Samoa is a steady beacon in the Pacific's story of development. We are a nation that, as a test case for the United Nations before they would permit all other

continued bottom of next page



Our frontpage model this week is Annie, commonly known as Ani Tauta. Ani is a student at Tereora College and works part time at Island Craft. Her father is Radio Cook Islands breakfast show announcer Papa Ru and she can be seen singing for his band at functions/hotels.

Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Lost Demo leader has no vision says PM

The Prime Minister says he won't rule out a deal between the two major parties despite the limited myopic views of the Democratic Party Leader.

Puna is confident of the Cook Islands Party position heading into next month's by-election in Vapae. For now, the option to get-together with the Opposition party will stay alive and on the table. Tunnel-vision and burning bridges are not part of his philosophy, he says, despite Wilkie Rasmussen's irrational assessment of the country's political situation.

"A lost leader without vision won't be able to stop a CIP-Demo coalition if that's what the two major parties want," Puna said today in response to a CINews Letter to the Editor by Rasmussen, discounting such a partnership.

"In politics, it's never too late to build relationships – especially

if the interests of the country outweigh those of a lost leader looking for a seventh seat in the Cabinet room."

The Prime Minister said it was now plainly obvious that Rasmussen had invested all his chips in a one dimensional deal with One Cook Islands. Puna said he was prepared to give the Democratic Party more credit than that.

"The Democratic Party and a lot of its supporters will know that a lot could be achieved if both parties worked together – even if it were for an agreed timeframe before we went back to the polls."

The attraction is political stability, ticks in the box for change or reform, and perhaps clarity on when the next general elections would be. The Bishop-Rasmussen deal is not sunshine but an early warning for stormy weather ahead, the Prime Minister says. -PM Office release

Trust Territories to follow suit, led the movement for self-determination and Independence. Our early leaders proved that Samoans were capable of running their own affairs in a complex new world of economic growth and opportunity.

They had the fearless resolve to set Samoa on a path of development and modernization, from which every Samoan is entitled to benefit. The Government does not intend to sit idly, while other Pacific countries move forward and leave Samoa behind.

The discriminatory fear-mongering perpetuated

by local newspapers and political exploitation of a tragic massacre in Europe by misguided Parliamentarians, only shows the abuse of our God-given rights to freedom of expression and a desperation for the media spotlight.

Despite the media misinformation and political campaign of intolerance - the Government will continue to work tirelessly towards a brighter future for all Samoans through smarter investment opportunities, dynamic initiatives and progressive policies for development.

Masinalupe returned to work two weeks ago.

Replacement of ring mains progress



Rarotonga's water system ring mains upgrade continues in 2015. The Cook Islands government, in partnership with the New Zealand government and the People's Republic of China, has embarked on this project with the goal of delivering a reliable supply of safe drinking water to all properties connected to the existing water network by 2016.

What is happening and when?

We are upgrading the existing water supply network for all of Rarotonga along both the inner and outer ring roads or loop roads as they are sometimes referred to.

Work has now started in Rutaki heading in an anti-clockwise direction.

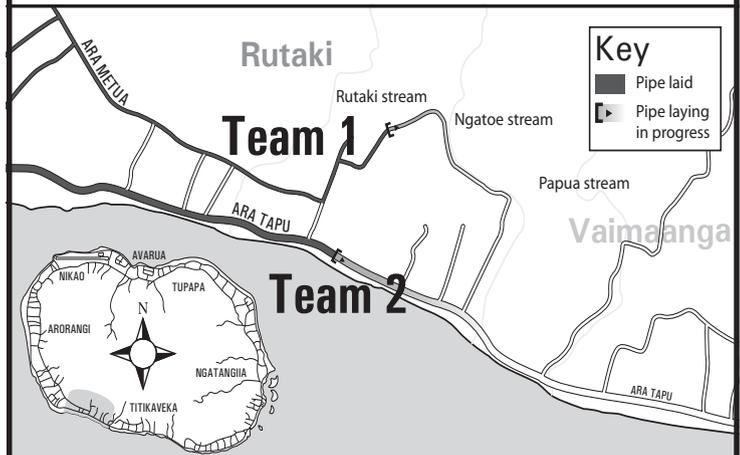
Team 1 work crew are working on the Ara Metua (inner ring road).

Team 2 work crew are working on the Ara Tapu (outer ring road).

Pipe laying is scheduled from 7 January 2015 and estimated to finish on 28 January 2015. Valve construction and full road reinstatement may take longer. **Teams** will be working from **7am – 6pm Mon to Sat**.

How will this affect me?

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



Some disruption can be expected due to the nature of the works. For further information contact Te Mato Vai Project's office on 28 851 or email Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com

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



Letters to the Editor

Demos want new team, new direction

Dear Editor,
Demo and One Cook Islands coalition deal is a non binding and void deal. It is also a deal that will introduce more taxes and oppose political reform of reduced parliamentary seats. The deal is made by two individuals for themselves and neither for the country, nor the political parties they represent. Both as former drop outs and tutu'a from the CIP camp cannot be trusted.

Wilkie also cannot pretend to make deals for the Demos as he no longer is the leader of the Democratic Party. He does not have the mandate of the Democratic Party to lead them. The Demo constitution like the CIP constitution provides the guidelines for an election of an executive and leader by a conference for a maximum two year term and not a day more. That two year term has come and gone since late August 2014. A conference was not called because the September 2014 election was just around the corner. But this same excuse did not deter CIP who courageously called their conference two weeks before the September election. Consequently, CIP picked up a lot of votes from disappointed Demos who saw dishonest deals and corruption growing within their

Demo executive camp saving themselves from the public trough.

The way forward is now forged by the 10 elected Demos and their punas. It is to this group that the rank and file are looking for integrity, confidence and a way back into government. They have held open and non secretive meetings and using modern telecommunications in texting each other for a positive way forward. More importantly they are calling for a conference. They are sick and tired of the current team and have no confidence and faith in them. They simply want a new team and a new direction in this New Year to lead the Demos back into government.

Time for action.

No mandate for coalition

Dear Editor,
A 1CI and Demo coalition deal is a non binding and void arrangement for three reasons. First, the deal was made between two individuals pretending to represent a bigger group. On the one hand is a losing candidate from the Demo camp, and on the other, a winning MP from the 1CI alias CIP camp. Both do not have the mandate from their parent parties to negotiate.

For the Demos, their constitution is very clear on the proper guidelines for an election of the party executive and leader, for a maximum two year term. To that extent, the current executive and leader's term expired end of August 2014.

No conference before the last election was held to extend their tenure. Thus there is neither Demo leader nor a Demo executive despite the shenanigans of today. Consequently what we have currently are opportunists and self serving corrupt men and women from both parties cementing their positions at the public trough.

Secondly, 1CI is not a political party but a disgruntled faction of two CIPs prostituting themselves to anyone who would sleep with them. To be a party you need a minimum 7 members in parliament to be recognised officially.

They don't have 7 members and thus their reason for wanting a coalition with the Demo 11 or the CIP. They can always return to the CIP camp and we will have a government in no time at all without all this attention seeking syndrome.

Finally, the self appointed 1CI leader has a case before the courts and the Demos or CIP cannot afford to be associating with a person and possible future prime minister who may be convicted later in the year.

I can just see the headlines of, 'Cook Islands Prime Minister imprisoned' going viral. What a public shame that would be for all generations to come. There goes our national integrity - yet again - tarnished by the very few as always.

The good news is that, all Demo elect MPs have been emailing, texting and skyping each other and the opposition CIP, for a positive coalition way forward. Both teams are forging a message of peace and good will during this festive season. Both want the nation to begin the New Year on a good note so we can all kick start our 50th anniversary celebrations, as one united Cook Islands people.

Now is the time to form a government of stability and develop a progressive, peaceful and prosperous Cook Islands for the next 50 years.

Tei Mua rai tatou.

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

BTIB lodges complaint against prominent local lawyer

The Herald has learnt that in November last year the BTIB lodged a complaint with the Law Society over the behavior of a prominent local lawyer at a meeting to hear submissions regarding a Foreign Investment Approval.

At the Board meeting held on 30 October 2014, the Board resolved to report the alleged unprofessional conduct and behavior of Tony Manarangi to the Law Society or the Chief Justice. The Board alleged Manarangi was drunk,

threatening and unreasonable (see letter below).

To date there has been little progress with the complaint besides a letter from the Law Society advising the matter is being considered.



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

11 November 2014

Hon Chief Justice
High Court of the Cook Islands
Rarotonga

Kia orana Sir,

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Board would like to raise its concern to your office in respect of the conduct of a legal practitioner Mr Tony Manarangi. In a meeting on 30 October 2014, he was invited on behalf of Toa Petroleum to make submissions on an application before the Board. The meeting started with Mr Arnold for Triad Petroleum who was informative and addressed the issues clearly.

Mr Manarangi then spoke. He was drunk and could not make sense. His tone was very threatening and unreasonable. The Board feels he was very unprofessional and did not behave as fitting a legal counsel.

We humbly ask that your office consider this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Tumutoa
Chairperson

Law Society President

Get your Development nominations in!

Nominations for the 2015 Development Awards have been extended for a further week to allow people more time to get their nominations in.

The awards are designed to pay tribute to people or projects that have made a special contribution to the country's first fifty years since self-government in 1965.

There are seven categories open for nomination; there will be an award for the best development or contributor to development in each of the five decades since 1965. There will also be a 'people's choice' award, and a 'supreme development' award. A panel of prominent judges will decide on the decade winners and the supreme award, while the public will be given the opportunity to vote for the people's choice award.

Nominations opened on Monday 15th of December and were originally scheduled to close on

Friday 23rd of January. But they will now remain open until January 30th.

The awards give the members of the public or organisations

the chance to put forward the project or person they believe most contributed to development in the five decades from 1965 to 2014.

Nomination forms are available from the Development Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) or at <http://www.mfem.gov.ck/mfemdocs/ceo/719-2015-development-awards-nomination-form/file>

The winners will be announced at the Development Awards Dinner on Tuesday 10th February, the dinner will be along the lines of a 1960's packing shed dine and dance and is being held in the Enea Manea – formerly known as the Titikaveka packing shed. The dinner will be open to the public and tickets will go on sale next week.

If you have any questions about the nomination process you can contact the Awards

Coordinator Jaewynn McKay either at email development@cookislands.gov.ck, or on phone +682 55 486.

Put in your nomination today!

Cook Islands Service announcement

Dear Valued Customers, Pacific Direct Shipping license was issued to Uma Shipping in 2012. Unfortunately the Trade Line, in conjunction with Pacific Direct Shipping, has provided a vessel to operate to the Cook Islands including the Northern Group, Rarotonga and Aitutaki. This service offered our Cook Island customers a regular and reliable option since the

license was issued to Uma Shipping in 2012. Unfortunately the Trade Line is now well over tonnage with three vessels servicing the Cook Islands from New Zealand. In order to ensure a sustainable long term service, Pacific Direct Line is pleased to announce a new Connecting Carrier Agreement with Matson

South Pacific Limited. Under this CCA, PDL will carry Cook Island cargo to Suva or Apia on our scheduled service to make the fastest connection to the Matson operated Olomana and Liloa.

2014 saw many lines, including global carriers, undertake sensible rationalisation of tonnage to ensure that various services

remained viable for the long term. This new arrangement for the Cook Islands is a logical extension of that process and as a consequence, the Tiare Moana will withdraw from the Trade at the conclusion of V34.

Our forward schedule, based on the current fastest connections, will be as follows-

Vessel	Voy	Auckland	Suva	Apia	Vessel	Voy	Suva	Apia	Raro	Aitutaki
CWS	26	15/2	20/2		LILOA	34	20/2		27/2	
TMO	34	6/3							12/3	14/3
CWS	29	29/3	3/4		OLOMANA	38	3/4		10/4	13/4
CWS	30	12/4	16/4		LILOA	36	17/4		24/4	
CWS	31	26/4	30/4		OLOMANA	39	1/5		8/5	11/5

Handball spectacular amazing

Qatar spares no expense for World Handball Championship



By Norma Ngatamariki

Over 2000 media personnel hailing from all four corners of the globe, have gathered here in Doha, Qatar for the 24th Men's Handball World Championship. They will report back to their respective countries on the progression of the games. As the host nation, Qatar certainly does not disappoint with its magnificent sports complexes such as the venues of Lusail Multipurpose Hall, Duhail Handball Sports Hall and the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena, which not only caters to the needs of the handball teams but for the media delegations as well.

Media centres have been established within these

facilities which are fully equipped with the latest technology assisting the media in reporting back to their countries with ease.

The media centres have proven to be very efficient as each delegation is provided access to cubby-holes in which information is provided to update current events so that the media groups can "stay on top of everything".

A networking system has also been developed via the Internet so that international media can deliver their reports to their home countries without any mishaps. Media packs are also provided which includes a travel adapter and a multi-use router. Transportation is also provided, with shuttle

buses taking delegations to and from their intended destinations. Suffice to say, Qatar has spared no expense in providing excellent hospitality to both its visiting handball teams as well as the media delegations and VIP's.

Qatar prides itself as being one of the leading countries in the world when it comes to Handball, and the capital city of Doha is immersed in the sport itself. The World Championship is proudly being advertised in every corner of the city with banners placed on highways and building are draped, all signalling out one message: "Live it, Win it".

These are the words Qataris live by. After watching numerous fans cheer for their home

teams with almost religious fervour, there is a realisation that handball is simply not just a sport, it is a way of life. Doha, a city which is rich in Arabic culture and embraces all aspects of their traditions, views handball with great importance in the same way that Cook Islanders view rugby and netball. It is a sport which has the potential to expand until it reaches even the farthest nation of the world.

The Qatar Government is totally committed to funding these World Championships and has spared no efforts to ensure its success in order to achieve economic development as well as recognition that it is a major player for future sports development at the international level.

24th Men's World Handball Championships-Qatar

Fitness, skills, attitude, of high standard



By George Turia

Kia orana from the Media Team in Doha Qatar.

This is the second of our report back to the Cook Islands on the Men's World Handball Championships in Qatar and from observation, competition is becoming quite intense with the key country teams vying for top positions for the playoffs for the finals.

So far, Spain who are the current Men's World champions managed to secure a win against Belarus 38 to 33. In other key matches, Germany beat Poland while Argentina held Denmark to a 24 – 24 Draw. Other highlights of the day include France defeating Czech Republic while Russia beat Saudi Arabia 27 to 17 with host nation Qatar, defeating Brazil 28 – 23 in their 1st Group A match this week.

There is no representative teams from Oceania, the Media Team are grateful that our reports will provide a catalyst to opening doors and opportunities for Oceania as a region and we will continue to provide updates and reports as they come to hand.

In all, it is a privilege to be among the best in the world regarding Handball as we witness quality and organization in the games especially where teams are more active and efficient up-court. Their ball handling skills are simply amazing and you can see fitness and skill plays a significant part in the psychology of how teams perform on the day.

This of course is also contributed to the huge level of support from the supporters who have travelled far distances to be with their players and to ensure they perform to their maximum. Coaching standards are nothing but the best on offer and you can see this with the level of training, discipline, fitness and on court performance by the teams.

The venues of course also play a vital role which one can only describe as magnificent and awesome. The structure of these facilities are regarded as equally superior to Olympic standards and with the amount of resources and support provided by the Government and people of Qatar, they can rightly congratulate themselves for delivering a superb and

quality facility with the venues provided plus all the national infrastructure projects related to these World Championships.

Over the coming days, we will also be coming to you with reports on other matches taking place plus a variety of news of interest as we mingle with players, coaches and officials including media from other participating countries of the world.

For a tiny country like the Cook Islands, media networking at this level is vital as opportunities like this don't come round often so once again, we thank the International Handball Federation and the Qatar Media Organizing Committee for providing this opportunity to be present and witness some fantastic skills and incredible people through the sport of Handball.

Security is not an issue although tight, it is precautionary just like any other international activity because of global concerns affecting some of the current participating countries. But to our families and friends back home, you can be assured,

we are being well looked after.

Our focus now is to learn more about Qatar, its rich culture and heritage and the ability to transform from a desert to the incredible infrastructure development taking place today. It is a modern day city built on the desert with amazing architectural designs and it caters for a mixture of multi cultural and ethnic races.

With a population similar to the size of NZ, economic development is essential and it can be seen that its leaders have the vision and commitment to advance their nation to cutting edge technology and human resource development. It is understood that a labour force of approximately 12,000 people were used to build these fantastic facilities in order to meeting the January 2015 start date.

For now, we will continue to take in the breathtaking beauty of this Arabian state and will report to you as information comes to hand. The weather is mild ranging from warm to cool and sunset is usually around 5pm with sunrise roughly about 5.30am.

24th Men's World Handball Championships-Qatar

Competition fierce in Qatar



By Norma Ngatamariki

Salam Alay Kum. Greetings from Doha, Qatar.

As the 24th Men's Handball World Championship goes into its fourth day, the competition for one of the top positions in the game is fiercely intense. The latest update for the team rankings are as follows: in group A, Slovenia takes the lead with a GA of 52 and the hosting country, Qatar, coming in second with a GA of 43. In group B, Macedonia is currently leading with a GA of 56 while Croatia is not far behind, standing with a GA of 55. Sweden has the top position in group C with a GA of 60 and Germany has taken out the first ranking of group D with a GA of 52.

The level at which the

teams are playing at is simply amazing. The sheer stamina of the players is almost infectious as the massive crowd of supporters cheer for their home teams. A bit of friendly rivalry creates healthy competition amongst the teams, as all players are experienced with handball and perform at a professional level.

The popularity of the sport is evident, what with the massive number of spectators lining the streets for hours on end just to purchase a single ticket. Being the hosting nation, Qatar's fan base is quite dedicated with regards to the endless support given to their national handball team. Qataris carry their colours with great pride, donning the maroon and white attire

that amply represents their country. However, the fans of other nations, such as Sweden and Germany, refuse to be ousted by the locals and a multitude of other colours can be seen from within the stadium. "Qatar handball 2015" merchandise is also being sold around the city where customers are eager to purchase, which goes to show the extent to which handball is, undoubtedly, in demand.

The passion for handball is not restricted to age. Both the young and old can take part in this sport with equal enthusiasm. In actual fact, the International Handball Federation (IHF) has initiated a program where handball is mandatory in the school curriculum of some education facilities worldwide. This

display of handball is not only a fun and enjoyable way of encouraging youth to become more physically active but it also serves as a channel, where these youth can build commitment to the sport when they are older.

Handball is a sport where people of all ages can participate in, whether it is on the actual playing field or on the stands of the stadium. This can easily be demonstrated in the Cook Islands as well, where we can initiate a set program for handball within our primary schools or further develop our current handball club so that the sport gains popularity and support amongst our people. The possibilities are endless and our country is more than capable of achieving these goals with the right support system.

Qatar – A Dynamic Thriving Economy

Part one

\$280 billion to develop Qatar's infrastructure

By George Turia

Flying to Qatar takes approximately 23 hours depending on which airline you travel and does not include transit or stopovers on the way. The Media delegation from the Cook Islands invited to attend the 24th Men's World Handball Championships in Qatar took the quick route which is considered long if you're not used to long distance travelling.

Temperatures were cool on arrival in Doha from Dubai with weather forecasts set to be continuing cool and cloudy throughout the duration of the Handball Championships as this is considered their winter season. Must admit the transit airport walks were very long contributing to jetlag anxiety.

Assumptions are that Qatar is like walking in the desert. On the contrary, it's not what you would imagine. Rather it is a beautiful modern day city with high rise inner city buildings. There are long stretches of highway and a maze of continuing road works due to many construction projects taking place. There is also incredible development of 2-3 story accommodation blocks everywhere all aligned on the main routes throughout Doha which is the capital of Qatar.

Downtown Doha is also simply mind boggling with its massive sprawling development and modern day architecturally designed sky rise buildings plus new developments of 2 – 3 storey buildings being built everywhere. The ongoing development in Qatar is a sign of positive and significant economic development taking place.

The city is absolutely beautiful full of rich culture and diversity of ethnic races, a desert mecca of unforeseen beauty. The people are friendly and while there may have been initial misunderstandings in terms of communications, you quickly become aware that English is not their first language so it is important to be sensitive and understanding as well as receptive to their responses

therefore the need to respect their position.

From people spoken to, there was an air of support and encouragement that Qatar 2015 is good for the nation in terms of economic development. The fact that signs promoting the Handball Championships were everywhere including roads, buildings, TV and commercial sectors, shows the level of commitment by the Qatar Government towards hosting this wonderful event.

The 3 main events centres (Lusail Multi-purpose Hall), (Ah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena) and (Duhail Sports Hall) are magnificent facilities in themselves of world class ranking in terms of design and architecture as well as potentially capable of hosting world multi sports events globally in future. The cost to build these facilities is unthinkable but with a wealthy country like Qatar, nothing is impossible therefore a price tag is certainly not unachievable.

Infrastructure developments are also quite significant signifying a lot of effort has been placed on environmental, coastal, rural and social issues before commencement of building projects. Qatar can be classified as a modern day city enriched by traditional architectural and cultural influences and supported by nothing but the best in information technology, human resource development and management and economic advancement.

Transport by bus is very convenient and not as complex. It's free (apart from charters and work related transport) and routes into the city and suburbs are easily identifiable. Mind you, traffic can be congested especially during peak hours which is around 6 – 8am and 5 – 8pm.

What has been visibly noticeable is the absence of power poles for electricity, water catchment and sanitation facilities. It would appear these are all underground. There is huge lighting available

around commercial and residential complexes. Lighting is everywhere and streets are fairly small and regimented. It is noticeable that fencing is around most of the residential complexes but it is uncertain if this is boundary related or part of the urban planning requirements.

With the exception of inner city high rise complexes, most urban and rural housing developments are no more than 2 storeys high. Parking is also at a premium especially in the inner city zones therefore it is more convenient to travel by bus. Interesting enough, petrol service station facilities with the exception of 2 – 3 on our way to the sports venues were visible.

Observing Doha's multi cultural makeup, it seems to consist of a mixture of Arabian/Middle Eastern, Filipino, Indonesian, African, and other European descents. Locals are easily identified by the clothes they wear identified for men as the Dhobe (usually white robe and cap) and for women Abaya (usually black which comes in 2 types: fully covered including face but not the eyes and exposed showing face). Colour is more preference rather than status related.

The supermarkets at the inner city malls are similar in size to ones in Hong Kong and Australia and other popular tourist destinations with long aisles and service counters. The transient nature of the workforce and visitor population is apparent by the numbers queuing at Foreign Money Exchange centres. This appears to be a daily event and often, you could be standing in line for up to half an hour before being served.

Prices of commodities and goods are reasonable but depending on your taste buds and desire for quality and brands, they are not too dissimilar with price ranges back in NZ and the Cook Islands. Foodstuffs seemed reasonably priced and equate to similar value to NZ and back home as well. Because Qatar is a desert nation, most of its

products are imported although Qatar Government is looking at Agriculture Development initiatives to boost local demands.

The mind boggles when you consider the enormous amount of infrastructure development taking place in Qatar especially Doha. Everywhere you see development taking place. The barren desert lands are lined with huge lifting cranes and you literally see hundreds of trucks of all sorts travelling the highways 24/7.

Employment is at a premium and there is a call for skilled labour continuously especially in the areas of engineering, information technology, human resource management and administration. Education plays an important function in Qatar and during visits and travels, the development of major education facilities as well a number of Academic institutions currently at the construction stages were noticeable.

It is hard to visualize the infrastructure development taking place unless you see it with your own eyes. The transformation from a desert image to fantastic housing divisions and commercial centres surrounded by a network of highways, shows careful planning and engineering skills formed part of the vision to develop this nation in its National Vision 2030 Plan.

The total cost of Qatar's infrastructure and construction projects is estimated at \$280.204 billion which is split amongst the following sectors; buildings (\$136.484 billion), infrastructure (\$103.426 billion); and energy development (\$40.294 billion). Based on these figures, Qatar can be classified as a growing dynamic economy. Although it has a relatively small population base being the smallest of the Arab nations, it certainly has huge plans for its infrastructure development for the next 20 years. Currently, it is the second most attractive market in the world for investments in infrastructure.

Hand ball-more than just a sport

From George Turia

Kia orana from the Media Team in Qatar attending the 24th Men's World Handball Championships.

The four of us have been here in this beautiful city now for 4 days taking in its breathtaking views and familiarizing ourselves with venues and the game of handball in general. From what we have seen so far, the stunning infrastructure of the 3 championship venues and the surrounding building projects is unique and perhaps something from which we in the Cook Islands could learn from for the future i.e. taking something from nothing and turning it into something that benefits everyone.

Last night, we watched 2 games the first between Belarus and Spain in what was an exciting spectacle of handball at its best. Competition was fierce between both teams and in some cases, quite physical boosted by spectator support from both sides of the stands. In the end, Spain managed a win by 34 to 29 to a much demoralised Belarus team who fought well and who were equally competitive but accepted defeat from a better team.

In the second match between host nation Qatar and Slovenia, there was no doubting where the support was as the stadium was packed with local supporters singing incredible musical chants, drumbeats and dancing, something that reminded us of home. The atmosphere was electrifying and with Qatar scoring early in the first few minutes, the stadium erupted with song and dance to support the local team. This continued throughout the match only stopping when Slovenia scored followed by hissing and jeering



from the locals.

While competition was close, there was a dramatic end to the game which was a "nail biter" with Qatar eventually coming through winners by 31 to 29 satisfying its army of supporters as to a job well done and advancement through to the next stages of the elimination rounds. If this is handball at its best so far, imagine the semis and the finals?

For handball in the Cook Islands, this is encouraging as it is regarded as an emerging and developing sport in our tiny nation. It is obvious that CI Handball will require a lot of support and technical advice if it is to even consider competing at this level. It is a highly technical sport, well resourced and managed efficiently by a team of global experts from all walks of life.

Handball is not just about playing a game with a ball. It is about fitness, about ball handling

skills, about co-ordination both physically and mentally, about healthy living, about being humble in victory and defeat and about family. It also encompasses political, social, cultural and economic activities unlike other sports which are restrictive to just competitive elements. Handball is like no other sport and although size does matter, it is really about skill, psychological advantage and strategy.

Observing the huge organization capability of these World Championships is incredible but shows the level of skill, competency and dedication required to become involved at this top level. Qatar has certainly spared nothing to ensure these World Championships are the best on offer and from what we have observed so far, they are right.

The Media Team will continue to focus on reporting back on a variety of topics of interest in the next week or two so that

our people can be aware and appreciate what is happening in this part of the world. We will also continue to provide feedback on particular games followed by interviews with other media, coaches, players and administrators regarding handball.

This is certainly a golden opportunity to which we acknowledge Cook Islands Handball for opening this door to a world we would not otherwise have been exposed to. We also thank the International Handball Federation for sponsoring this trip and the Qatar 2015 Organizing Committee for being great hosts. In addition, we will also look at other aspects as to how this country functions, its people, its characteristics, its general fabric of lifestyle where we may be able to draw similar conclusions to our own culture and perhaps learn from and share with each other through handball.

Preliminary NCEA results released

Preliminary NCEA results were released by NZQA on Tuesday 13 January and an initial analysis has now been carried out by the Ministry of Education. Please note that these are only preliminary results with final results due for publication and release in March 2015.

As in previous years, we now analyse results in two ways: by actual numbers of students who are enrolled in their respective year level to show the achievement of all students after 11, 12 or 13 years of education; and by participation, which shows the achievement of those students who entered for a course of study which, if successful, would allow them to gain an NCEA qualification at the appropriate level. Participation rates exclude students in each year group

who may have taken only a partial course, or who have undertaken multi-level studies or may have been involved in a more diverse range of studies for which NZQA credits were not available and therefore not eligible for a qualification in the current year. This is particularly relevant at Year 13 where students who choose vocational rather than academic pathways gain NCEA Level 3 and access to tertiary courses but are not eligible for University Entrance which has different subject requirements, not always relevant to the students' chosen pathway.

We are extremely pleased at these outstanding results which have yet again shown continued improvement in achievement levels. We continue to track well above the 2015 targets set down

in the Education Master Plan. Of particular note this year is the substantial increase in the number of students who have achieved their NCEA qualifications with Excellence and Merit endorsements. Not only are our students achieving well in NCEA, many of them are in the top achievers amongst all students in NZ and abroad who enter for these recognized NZ national qualifications.

Teachers have again done a superb job preparing their students well and I congratulate them all for their passion and hard work which has seen so many of our students excel. Students must also be commended for their effort while the part that parents play should not be underestimated. Where a strong partnership between the school and home exists,

students will benefit and this is obvious from these results. I commend the parents who have taken such a keen interest in their children's education and encourage them to continue their support in this new year. Parents mustn't be shy about

contacting your school – often help and advice is only a phone call away.

As we approach the commencement of the new 2015 academic year, I urge all principals, teachers, parents and students to again work together and with the support of the Ministry of Education, I strongly believe that our country is well on track to producing a well-qualified population of young people. This will have a positive impact on the future development of this country.

Pass Rates - NCEA 2014 - By Enrolment and Participation

School	Level	Roll Number	No. Achieved by Enrolment	% Achieved by Enrolment	Eligible for Award No. of Students	No. Achieved by Participation	% Achieved by Participation
Araura College	1	32	28	87.50%	31	28	90.32%
Enuamanu	1	6	2	33.33%	6	2	33.33%
Mangaia	1	12	8	66.67%	9	8	88.89%
Mauke	1	6	5	83.33%	6	5	83.33%
Nukutere	1	20	9	45.00%	20	9	45.00%
Tereora	1	140	114	81.43%	139	114	82.01%
Titikaveka	1	17	12	70.59%	17	12	70.59%
National Averages	1	233	178	76.39%	228	178	78.07%

Araura College	2	20	17	85.00%	20	17	85.00%
Enuamanu	2	17	14	82.35%	17	14	82.35%
Mangaia	2	14	10	71.43%	14	10	71.43%
Tereora	2	141	116	82.27%	137	116	84.67%
Titikaveka	2	7	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
National Averages	2	199	157	78.89%	190	157	82.63%
Enuamanu	3	4	4	100.00%	4	4	100.00%
Tereora	3	102	71	69.61%	88	71	80.68%
National Averages	3	106	75	70.75%	92	75	81.52%

Tereora	UE	102	36	35.29%	61	36	59.02%
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Restoration of historic document

Painstakingly delicate, explains Cook Islands Library and Museum Society Secretary Jean Mason, of the recent preservation treatment to The Proclamation 'E Tuatua Akakite 1891' document that saw her accompanying the historical document to New Zealand in order to prolong the document's shelf life, "Getting it registered was one thing; getting it restored was another!"

The Proclamation, the original document recording the British declaration of a Protectorate over some of the Cook Islands, was successfully registered on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in early 2014 and in its decaying condition was identified by a Memory of the World Committee for Asia/Pacific (MOWCAP) panel expert as needing restoration treatment. "Our tropical climate is devastating to old books and documents; The Proclamation was no exception," says Mason, "It was brown with age, crumbling when handled and the text on it was fading away."

Frail and nearing extreme deterioration, The Proclamation document underwent over eight hours of intense restorative treatments in the delicate and steady hands of NZ based archives conservator David Ashman, in order to ensure it would last well into the next century. "If looked after and kept out of UV light, water and fire, the document should last another two hundred years," says Mason.

The process began by first removing the document from its highly acidic backing board, to which it had been glued over 60 years ago. Then the document was soaked in a solution of calcium hydroxide. After that it had to be very carefully removed from the solution. "This is the most delicate part of the process," says Mason.

The document was then repaired using hand-made glue, applied to fine tissue, and using fingers and tweezers, was attached to the document's



David Ashman and Jean Mason with Cook Islands proclamation post conservation



Removing acidic cardboard backing

gaps and tears. "This too is an awkward stage as some of the pieces of tissue are tiny. Also, further moisture is being added to the document so application is very delicate."

The document also underwent a dry cleaning process of light brushing and delicate sponging to remove

any loose particles. This is done using a soft brush and vulcanized rubber sponges. After the dry clean process the embossed stamp on the paper appears more visible.

Ensuring one of the few surviving rare articles of the Cook Islands is properly preserved has been an integral

step in "bringing the project over the MOWCAP finish line," says Mason. "The document is not only significant because it formalises the beginnings of our acceptance as a nation; it is also significant because it reveals to us today the difficult choices our then leaders had to make to protect their people."

Ready set go!



Youngsters riding their bicycles in Mitiaro. *Photos supplied by Tiana Haxton from Mitiaro*

The launch for the 50 days for 50 years bicycle/walking campaign gets underway on Saturday 17 January at 8 am, at the Punanganui market. The campaign aims to get people riding bicycles or walking to work and school for 50 days between 17 Jan to 7 August.

The campaign promotes a reduction in green house gas emissions. Essentially we are advocating for a healthy environment and people in our 50th anniversary year and

beyond", says Ana Tiraa, Director Climate change Cook Islands, OPM

Registration forms to sign up for the challenge and a score card to keep track of the days you ride or walk to work will be given out at the market. Fun activities will also be had with Ride Rarotonga taking riders through obstacle courses at the market, and giving a few tips.

"Riding a bicycle is a much more pleasant way to really look at the island and fully appreciate

nature's gift", says Tiraa

"Riding a bicycle can save you time and money because you don't use expensive petrol and you don't have to do your exercise after work since you are getting it going to and from work", says Kelvin Passfield, Technical Director of Te Ipukarea Society, who has a regular routine of cycling to work.

The organisers are encouraging those that are interested in participating in this event to bring their own drink bottles to

minimise waste. There will be a water station provided where people can fill up.

Nick Henry the Chair - 50th celebrations steering committee sums up the spirit of the event by quoting an unknown author, "a bad attitude is like a flat tyre you can't go anywhere until you change it".

Become a clean, green, cycling machine and save in more ways than one!

- Ana Tiraa - Director of Climate Change Cook Islands

New hand at the helm for Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit

After bedding in the operations of the Te Mato Vai project for the last fourteen months, the head of the Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit - Latu Kupa - is stepping back and while maintaining oversight of the work on Rarotonga, has appointed another engineer to handle the day-to-day management.

Latu Kupa is the Chief Executive of Kupa Engineering and Water (KEW), which won the project management tender. The company has carried out fresh water and wastewater

projects in a number of Pacific countries including New Zealand.

Day to day project supervision will now be handled by Russell Abrams who is an experienced water practitioner. Russell has designed and supervised water and sanitation projects across Asia, Africa and the Pacific, including New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati.

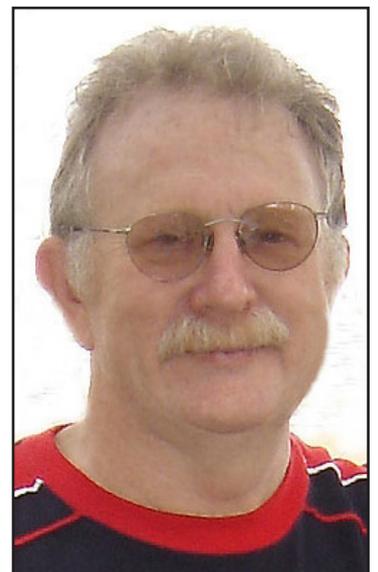
Russell has worked on the Te Mato Vai project previously and will officially step in project manager of Monday 26th January, he will be permanently

located in Rarotonga.

Latu will remain involved with Te Mato Vai maintaining an overall quality assurance role and will be returning to Rarotonga regularly.

In the meantime work is advanced on calling tenders for stage two of Te Mato Vai, which involves improvements at the 12 intakes in the foothills around the island, along with the provision of water storage and filtration facilities.

The contractor laying the pipeline - CCECC - has indicated it will not be tendering for any of the stage two work.



How to Establish the Right Foundation in Your Life *Part 1*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Because we are still in the early part of the New Year, I felt it would be appropriate to bring a message that will encourage you to establish the right foundation in your life.

The main scripture reading is in Luke 6v46-49 which is The Parable of The Two Foundations. A Parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus through this Parable is showing the difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder. Jesus tells us through this Parable what to do and what not to do.

In order to understand this Parable let us look at its setting. During summer in Palestine many of the rivers dry up. People often look for a site to build a house on the river bed. So it is common in Palestine to see houses built on river beds. Even during Jesus' days because rural houses were generally built of hardened mud. Every 7 years or so, Palestine experiences an unusually heavy rainfall. So in winter when the September rain comes, the empty river beds can be flooded. Some builders would select a site on solid rock even though it is more difficult to build and it is hard labour to cut out the foundations. They don't need to worry about the heavy rain, the battering winds that beat against the house, and the sudden rising of water that may sweep the house away. This is because; a

house built upon the rock has a foundation that lasts. When the heavy rain comes the builders' hard work is paid off because the house stands strong, firm and secure.

Jesus told the Parable because He knew it would be understood by the people because it relates to their experiences and their way of life. Jesus teaches us the importance of establishing the right foundation and how to apply this Principle in our lives.

Firstly, in v46 Jesus said "But why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?" The first lesson in establishing the right foundation in our lives is to be doers of the Word. In Matthew 7v.21 Jesus said "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Jesus was saying 'do these things that I have taught you, apply them in your lives and in doing so you will build your lives on the right foundation. It is God's desire that we are not only hearers, but also doers of His Word. Whoever listens to Jesus and does not put His words into practice has not laid the right foundation. That person's house is temporary and when problems come, the house collapses and is completely destroyed because it does not have Jesus Christ as its foundation.

So, first, in order to establish the right foundation, we

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



need to translate the hearing of God's Word into action.

Secondly, we need to fully understand that Jesus Christ is the only true foundation. Jesus said in Luke 6v47-48 "Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat violently against that house and could not shake it, because it was built on the rock." In Psalm 62v2 David said "God alone is my Rock and my Salvation. He is

my Fortress. I will never be shaken." We all experience the pressures of life – demands on our finance, resources, and energy, sometimes these become more than we can bear. Unless we establish Jesus Christ as the foundation of our lives, we will be unable to stand secure and unshaken when the pressures of life mount up on us. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 3v.11 said "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

I will continue with Part 2 of this lesson next week.

God bless – te Atua te aroa.

Qatar!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Salam alay kum. That's Hello in Arabic. Holler, holler people! I am reporting from Doha, Qatar and let me tell you, the experience so far has simply been amazing. People automatically assume that, just because the country is in the Middle East and near the desert, it would be hot. Wrong! It can get as cold as New Zealand down here and it even gets windy! Who would've thought? I guess you can't base your assumptions from what you hear until you actually encounter it yourself. That is a very valuable lesson that I have learnt.



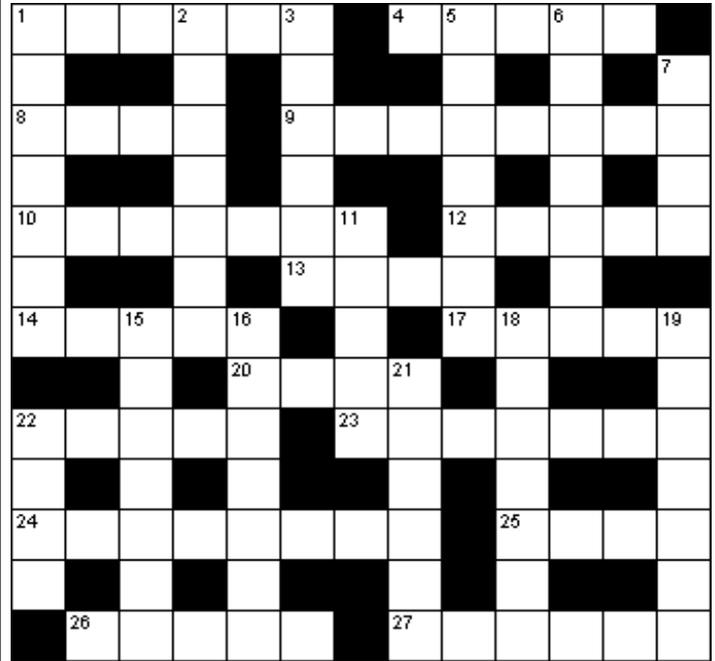
Anyways, I'm having a fabulous time here in Doha. The team, consisting of George Turia, Alexander Pere, Sean Isamaela and moi are staying at the Retaj Hotel somewhere in the city. The place is top of the notch in my opinion. A fluffy, white bed, a glimmering bathroom all to yourself, complimentary snacks and even someone else to clean your room! (But I always make an effort to keep my room tidy, not that it makes much of a difference) And the sports venues! Oh, I could go on and on about the venues, but I won't. It'll probably take up the entire Herald if I did.

I really like it here. There's free wifi, free food, access to almost all areas where the games take place. However, I do understand that I am here to work, but even that's great fun. The team and I work in the media centres, which provides almost everything to the media delegations. Everybody helps everybody and that's a nice environment to work in. You can be kept in the loop by reading the reports that George and I

place? The Doha City Centre, which is the main shopping mall of the entire centre, is pretty awesome! It's on par with Sylvia Park (the only other shopping mall that I've been to) It's even got an ice skating rink in the centre of the building! How about that, eh? I'm still iffy about the prices though and shopping is not as cheap as I thought it would be (2000 Qatari riyal won't last long if you're not careful) but hey, I'm not complaining. I reckon that you gotta know where all the cheap stuff is and I haven't been here that long.

I'm dreading the flight back. Not because I don't want to return home, but because of the long, treacherous hours on a plane. I was in the air for almost a day and I hated every minute of it! So I'm gonna make the most of it while I'm still on the ground. I'm in the media centre of the Lusail Sports Complex right now. The game between Chile and Belarus is on. I think I'm gonna go and watch it (for free lol)

CROSSWORD

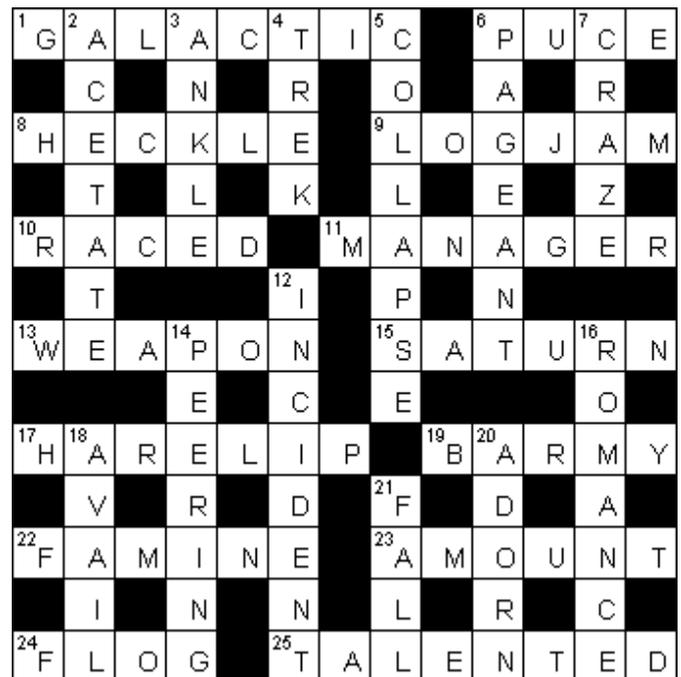


Across

- 1. Male cat
- 4. Making much noise
- 8. Weapons
- 9. And so forth
- 10. No longer in existence
- 12. To put to use
- 13. Suspended
- 14. Sweatbox
- 17. Merits
- 20. Collide with
- 22. Points of entry and exit
- 23. Rather yellow
- 24. Cooking oil
- 25. Cricket ground
- 26. Rigid
- 27. Musical

Down

- 1. Female tiger
- 2. Pad
- 3. Long narrow excavation
- 5. Antiquated
- 6. Sleeping car
- 7. Infant
- 11. Abdomen
- 15. Former Soviet republic
- 16. Gathering of pus in body tissue
- 18. Exhausted
- 19. Heavenly colour?
- 21. Artificial leg
- 22. Ruse



The pro Rasmussen daily dribble gets a rare media release from the Prime Minister's office then dumps it on page 10 surrounded by advertising then hacks it around giving the reader the impression it was an interview with their political reporter Flipper Bew. It's no wonder the slow learners at the dribble get limited access to Elvis Precisely.



MFEM's damage control media release on IRD numbers for bank accounts is a big stuff up blaming this outstanding news breaking publication for publishing incorrect information is downright chicken poop. The fact is the Herald published exactly as the information report BCI's Vaine Arioka sent out to a government agency. It isn't the Herald's fault that information was not for public consumption and prematurely sent out. Nor is it this wonderful publication's responsibility to check the accuracy of information disseminated by government. Added to the MFEM face saving spin the report was not leaked to the Herald when it was sent out by BCI it became a public document, so stop the big cover up you bunch of wingers at MFEM and BCI.



Big Red had to crow at the daily's unbalanced reporting on the under 17 soccer tournament held in Samoa, staunch rugby follower Miz Willison highlighted to losses our Cook Island boys out of context. When the big picture is viewed losses by other teams were huge in comparison which indicates our boys weren't that bad as made out to be by Willison. If it weren't for the Samoan imports, rugby would be a washed up dead, dead sports code in the Cook Islands.



Word is Crown Law boss the incompetent Kim Saunders has been talking

out of school, whispers in legal corridors is corruption charges will not be laid against Prime Minister wannabe T Bishop. Well she can leak her opinions all she likes because that decision doesn't rest with her. It's about time she was shown the door for consulting her inner circle in the profession with matters of sovereign confidentiality, pack your bags shiler you may not last till March, the sooner the better.



Should a government Ministry like Tourism be involved with developing a convention centre? Surely this is the role of the private sector? The operation of a convention centre is a commercial activity. Government funds would be better spent making the sort of improvements demanded by tourists like fixing the roads, installing some proper footpaths, cleaning up the lagoons, bringing the dog problem under control, reducing petty crimes, installing clean public amenities like toilets and rest rooms downtown. Let the private sector build the convention centre and run it like the business it is.



Who owns and runs the bicycle outfit? The Head Porter or the bloke with a name no-one can pronounce? After years of neglect, is the humble bicycle making a comeback?

Are we becoming the Saigon or Scandinavia of the south? Let's go the full distance-bring back the Penny Farthing!



Word is the Rooster running the 50th knees up is looking for a suitable coop from which to dispense his sacred plans for a big bash to mark 50 years of confusion, back pedaling, misbehaviour, bad investments, bad manners, misappropriation of public monies, bad leadership and the like. He does not like his current digs under the PM's nose and sought to kip down as a squatter at Culture. However, he soon got the short shift from there! Anyone out there got a spare bed? Rooster has \$500,000 in his pocket.



Little did American tyre maker Dunlop know that far into the distant future, on a miniscule isle in the South Pacific, an insignificant country would be using the humble bicycle rubber tyre as a major infrastructure component for the prevention of leaks in water pipes!



Chooks you would think that before one agency of the State sends information to another agency of the State, that information would be correct and that someone in authority would have ensured it was correct.

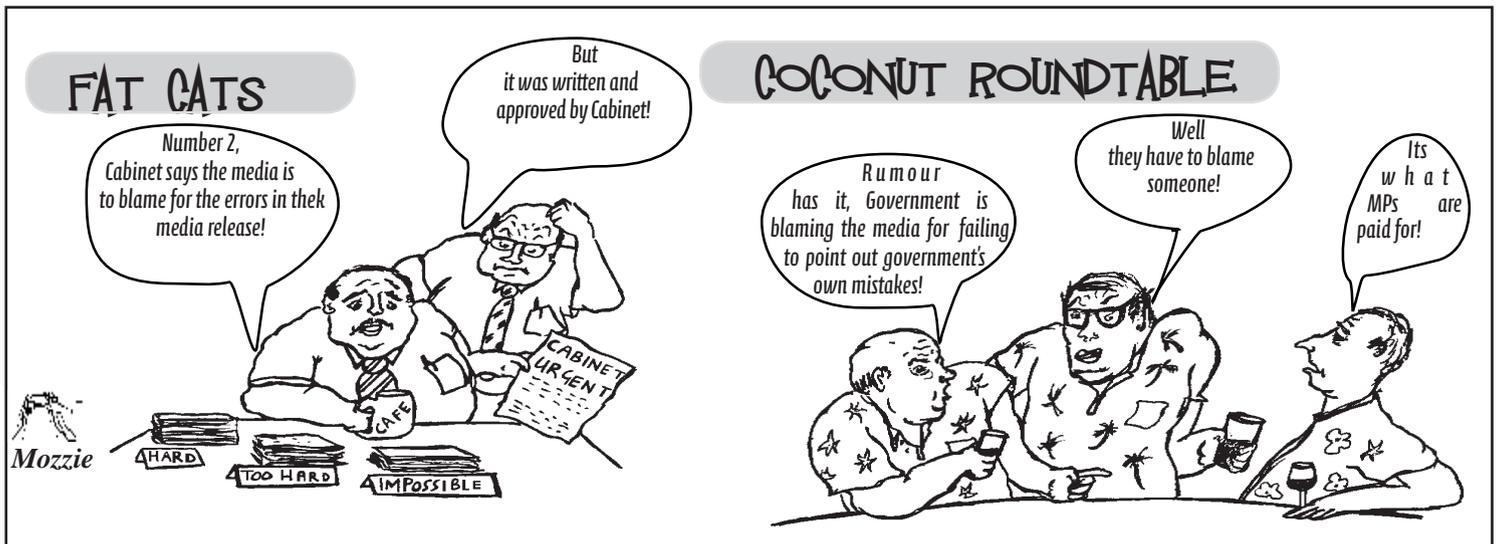
Oh no-not in the Cook Islands! You see, in the Cook Islands, according to MFEM, it is the media that should have checked to ensure the information is correct! Even the Finance Minister went on radio to tell the nation a certain person in the media lied when the same information was reproduced! If MFEM are adamant it was the media's job to check that the State agency had the correct information, then in future, all State agencies will have to run their statements past the media for checking first. This will include all submissions to Cabinet, all drafts, all reports, all letters, all papers, all inter agency memos, all draft law changes-in fact-everything! The media looks forward to this new arrangement as stipulated and endorsed by the Finance Minister!



Outer Island Mayors are responsible for nominating who is to come to Rarotonga for training to drive the spanking brand new Chinese funded toys when they are taken to the islands. According to mother hen a certain Mayor has nominated the same guy who drove their previous Chinese funded toy into a taro swamp on the island. What is wrong with this picture? It's like giving an unpunished offender a second chance at driving another one of them funded toys from China into the swamp.



Word is chooks, government's failure to reach a settlement with landowners over land needed for the upgraded intakes and new storage tanks up in the hills, has come back to bite government on the bum. The Minister's fast tracking methods have had the brakes applied by the Land Court! And there's more trouble with delays in finding out just who the landowners are! Apparently all this was supposed to have settled prior to the water project being started!



PUBLIC NOTICES



PAPAAROA ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Papaaroa Adventist School accepts New Enrolments for students from Pre-School to Form 4 (ECE to Year 10) on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Monday 26 January within the hours of 9am and 2pm. Enrolment forms are available from the school in Titikaveka. Classes start on Monday 27 January at 8:00am "Education, For Now and for Eternity"

TITIKAVEKA COLLEGE NOTICE

Titikaveka College will be open for new enrolments this Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January from 9am to 1pm. Students, please bring in your school reports from your previous school and your birth certificate or passport. All students to report to school on Tuesday 27 January at 8am in full uniform, Umeia te Marokura Gaylyn Lockington Principal



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FOR COURSE INFORMATION OR TO ENROL - VISIT, PHONE or EMAIL: study@citti.edu.ck

FACULTY OF HOSPITALITY AND SERVICES - Ngatangiaa - Phone: 22628 Ext 1

Courses include: Food and Beverage Services, Food Preparation and Cooking, Hair and Beauty, Professional Bartending, International Barista Skills and more!

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND TRADES - Arorangi - Phone: 21471 Ext 1

Courses include: Electrical Engineering, Automotive engineering, Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drinlaying, Building Construction and more!

Continuing Education Short Courses include:

Baking, Weaving, Web Design, CI Maori Language, Landscaping, Photography and much more! Ph: 21471 Ext 6

FACULTY OF NURSING - Rarotonga Hospital, Arorangi - Phone: 22664

Course includes: 3 year Diploma in Nursing that leads to registration as a Nurse in the Cook Islands

It's time to take the NEXT STEP!

We look forward to hearing from you. Kia Manuia.

83746

TENDER



REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Date: 20 January 2015
Project Name: Distribution of Equipment, Machinery and Materials project
Tender ID: DCDCR027
Tenders close: Monday 2 February 2015 at 4pm

The Development Coordination Division (DCD) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management invites suitably qualified freight forwarding service providers to tender for the delivery of containers of equipment, machinery and materials to various outer islands.

Tender documents can be picked up from the DCD, Third Floor of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management in Avarua. Electronic copies of the tenders are available by contacting the respective Tender Managers below.

All tenders are to be placed in the Tender Box at DCD, 3rd floor, MFEM Building. Avarua by the closing date of Monday 2 February no later than 4pm.

For Tender Information or any queries relating to the tender documents please contact:

Tender Manager: Boyd Ellison Ph Ph+68222226

Or +68254221

email: boyd@akairoconsulting.com

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VACANCIES



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The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa & Sanctuary Rarotonga on the beach have a wide range of employment opportunities seeking enthusiastic, motivated staff on a part time basis such as;

- **Housekeepers:** 9am - 1pm
- **Laundry Attendants:** 5pm - 9pm
- **Restaurant Servers:** 6am - 10am or 5pm - 9pm
- **Bar Staff:** 5pm - 9pm
- **Night Cleaners:** 10pm - 12am
- **Kitchen Stewards:** 6pm - 10pm
- **Kitchen Hands:** 6am - 10am or 10am - 2pm or 2pm - 6pm
- **Chefs:** 6am - 10am or 10am - 2pm or 2pm - 6pm or 6pm - 10pm
- **Grounds Staff:** 9am to 1pm
- **Maintenance "all rounder" Handyman:** 9am - 1pm or 1pm - 5pm or 5pm - 9pm.
- **Security Staff:** 9am - 1pm or 1pm - 5pm or 5pm - 9pm or 9pm - midnight.

These part time roles can fit in with your lifestyle and is a fantastic way to earn extra money around family commitments.

Work hours & days flexible with a minimum of 4 hours per shift & work for two to four shifts per week.

For more information on the position and the Resort visit our website www.TheRarotongan.com or apply to Ms. Tearoa Paia on; Email hr@rarotongan.co.ck or info@rarotongan.co.ck Skype address trbr.hr Phone (682) 25-822 exts 8014 or 8037 or 25-800

VACANCIES



Teller Vacancy

To be the best you need to mix with the right company!

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As a Teller, you would play a key customer facing role in our branch network.

The goals of a Teller is to;

- Provide a great experience for our customers
- Contribute to our overall mission in becoming the number one service organization
- Ensure customers' immediate service needs are met

As part of our team, you'll be sharing our commitment to being one of the Pacific's most responsible companies - responsible to our customers, to the communities in which we operate and to our environment.

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been looking for, submit your application along with your CV to:

Tokoia Harmon
Branch Manager
PO Box 42
Rarotonga
Avarua
Cook Islands

Or email:
westpaccookislands@westpac.com.au

Applications will close on 30th January 2015

You're in good company.



VACANCY – COMMERCIAL MANAGER

This position requires a qualified professional to oversee TAU's commercial needs.

A full job description can be uplifted from the office of Te Aponga Uira, P.O. Box 112, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or by contacting Bettina Akania on (682) 20054 or email bakania@electricity.co.ck

Applications close 3:00 p.m. Monday, 9th February 2015

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HEART FOUNDATION

Boye's Tattooing legacy lives on

By Poko Utia

The Herald visited Polynesian Tattoo at the Punanga Nui Market on Tuesday to see how the business has progressed since it was founded by Boye Nicholas.

The business is now under the capable stewardship of Clive Nicholas. Boye started the business after he went on a vaka journey through the South Pacific to 18 different destinations. In Tahiti he met a man who asked if he could have Cook Island tattoo designs. When Boye returned, the knowledge that he learnt was put to use.

The work done at Polynesian Tattoo originates from a mixture of both traditional formats and pure inspiration. Many customers come in with their own designs, something like 80% of those who walk through the door ask them to do their designs for them.

A popular design is the traditional style that has a story to go with it. Some people may want a tattoo that represents a person their family or something they may hold dear to them. The tattoo may also symbolize their heritage.

Popular places where customers get their tattoos are on their arms or calf area for men. For ladies it would be the side of their leg or the foot area.

The business is run by family members and they have made it a tradition to pass the knowledge on to their children and on to Boye's children. So that Boye's children can continue his legacy.

Kay Napa is an apprentice who is being trained by Clive Nicholas. Kay is the only one in the business at the moment who is being taught the art the right way he says jokingly.

On the matter of copyright and intellectual property



Boye Nicholas

rights, Clive adds that a lot of tattooists are copying his and Boye's designs and there isn't much they can do about it.

He says that once the customers walk out the door how they protect their design from being copied is up to them. There's nothing much they can do about it, but a lot of Boye's designs are being copied throughout the Pacific and also his traditional prints.

Hygiene is taken very seriously and every morning for one hour they clean the rooms, sterilize all their equipment and check if their sterilizer is up to date. They also ensure that for every tattoo they do on a person a new packet of needles is used.

The premises are open most days of the week, Monday to Saturday and you will find their charges very reasonable. So pay a visit.

PUBLIC NOTICE



APII AVARUA NOTICES

1. The school office will be open to receive new enrolments for 2015 from 9am to 12noon, on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January. Please bring along either a passport or a copy of the birth certificate and previous school report.
 2. School Fee is \$20 for one child and \$30 for two or more children.
 3. TUKIS will inform the school when the logo is attached (sewn) onto the school shirts and parents/caregivers will be notified when they are on sale.
 4. All students are to report to school on Tuesday 27th and in uniform. The opening church service for the year will be at 9am in the Avarua CICC. Parents and caregivers are most welcome to attend. Any student not participating in this church service will remain in the school supervised. Normal school programme after the service.
 5. Parents/caregivers are to notify the school if they wish to withdraw their child(ren) from the school roll (except students moving into the colleges).
 6. All teachers are to report to school at 9am on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Monday 26th January.
- Kia Rangatira
Teremoana Herman – Principal