

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

11 February 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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Democratic Party destined for Political Purgatory

Instead of leading the Democratic Party victoriously into the land of political promise the autocratic Wilkie Rasmussen lost his way in the light and led the faithful into political darkness with no idea how to redeem himself or the Party. Politically lost in more ways than ten, Rasmussen has gathered a handful of desperate disciples on a promise of riches and pitched his evangelical message of hope on the messianic vision of the political cast off the corruption accused Teina Bishop, once a rival formally persecuted by the paranoid Rasmussen.

Converted by the One Faith preached by Bishop a political pastor of a flock of one other, Rasmussen is convinced his political salvation and back door restoration to the inner sanctum of Cabinet is through the Bishop whom a remnant believe has the power to miraculously over turn the Cook Islands Party government by a friendship cemented over many predawn breakfasts with the Queen of the Commonwealth Elizabeth the II's presence in the Cook Islands His Royal Excellency Tom Marsters at his private residence in Arorangi.

The Cook Islands Constitution is also subject to the undisclosed "Me to Know" powers Bishop professes to have at his disposal. Having failed miserably at his attempts to pervert the Constitution in a costly legal process to get the seat the Penrhyn voters biffed him off, Rasmussen is convinced Bishop has exclusive constitutional insights honed after being in Parliament for 16 years. Papers Bishop ceremonially waves during

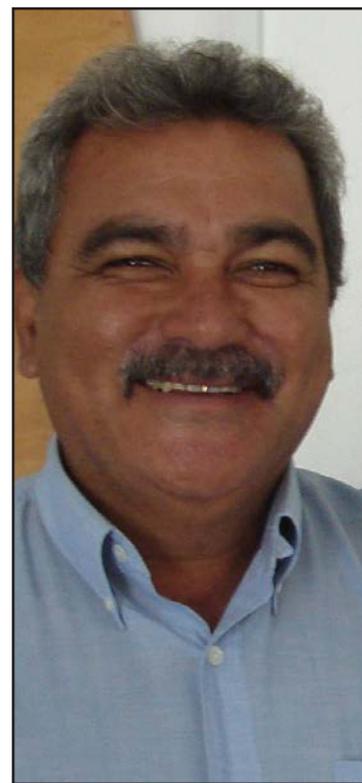
meetings infiltrated by sceptics have a power influence over highly educated and supposedly intelligent people. A recent convert, the former Chief Auditor Paul Allsworth is a vigorous exponent of the Bishop crow bar interpretation of the Constitution. Like any new convert Allsworth doesn't need concrete proof to substantiate his confessed support, the word of the Bishop right or wrong is sufficient, for blessed are those who believe without seeing, such is the power of hearing.

Prior to Christmas Rasmussen had a religious awakening and imitated John the Baptist and began heralding the coming of Bishop a political prophet disowned by his own brethren to save that which he was stupid enough to lose, the Democratic Party. Soul searching quickly got replaced by Rasmussen's message of redemption to the elevated heights of crowning Bishop with the rulership to the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands. In a stupor and frenzy of victory soaked up by the Demo nostrils the liquid amber flowed freely and supporters danced into the night convinced they were on the brink of a miracle that would endorse the crowning of the Bishop.

Doubters caused enough doubt for the twins of false hope to quickly look into their crystal ball and refocus the apocalyptic over throw of the evil power, the Cook Islands Party. New predictions were welcomed by the deluded followers of the One power, the new date critical to a new uprising was 17 February 2015 the day of



Wilkie Rasmussen



Teina Bishop

the by- election in the Aitutaki constituency of Vaipae/Tautu.

Acting and talking like they were already the government the masters of illusion Bishop and Rasmussen staved off attempts by the doubters to clear the air and test the leadership of the Party with an overdue Conference before the by -election.

Come the 17 February 2015 Bishop and Rasmussen will be exposed as false seers of promise and hope, the two manipulators will be forced to invent a new excuse as to why they got whipped and kicked into political oblivion. Do not be surprised if the Sunday flights curse rears its haunting

head prior to the by elections.

The Demos will simply not win the by- election in Vaipae/ Tautu, the coconuts have already fallen the CIP's way exposing the Democratic Party to ridicule and gullibility because of the self serving Rasmussen who despite being a consistent loser still clings with desperate conviction he can lead the Party out of the wilderness.

A CICC Deacon, Rasmussen should be familiar with the Biblical Exodus and he like Moses will never taste the victory of a promised land. The Demos will be

continued bottom of next page

Norman to sue Government for \$4m

Lawyer and former MP Norman George files malicious prosecution lawsuit

In a media statement released on Wednesday morning, Norman George stated;

"I have today filed a malicious prosecution lawsuit against the Government of the Cook Islands, via the Attorney General and Prime Minister the Hon. Henry Puna; for being wrongfully prosecuted on 14 charges of corruption, theft by misappropriation, failing to account and conspiracy to defraud the Government of the Cook Islands on the 27th March 2008.

On the 30th of April 2010 by order of the High Court of the Cook Islands I was acquitted of all the charges.

The Government at the time showed their determination to destroy me by hiring two special prosecutors from New Zealand and obtaining the services of the Serious Fraud Office.

A former N.Z. Police Detective Inspector was appointed to head the investigations.

No expenses were spared to secure a conviction.

I have described my investigation as the longest taking 5 years and the most expensive in the history of the Cook Islands, costing close to over 1 million dollars. The total amount involved in my charges came to \$15,000.

The criminal trial was also the longest in our history, it started with the first appearance on 27 March 2008, 13 to 31 October 2008, 17 to 21 November 2008, 10 to 30 August 2009, 21 September to 2 October 2009, 24 March to 31 March 2010 and 30 April 2010, my final appearance, a total of 46 days of Court hearings.

The level of malice directed at me by the then Government of the day caused me and my wife and family grievous shame, hurt and humiliation therefore we seek general and exemplary damages in this action.

The total of general and



Norman George

aggravated damages being my office in Rarotonga will act sought amounts to \$4 million. as the local representative and

I am represented by two senior address of service. lawyers from New Zealand, Peter I look forward to my day in McKnight and John Samuel but Court."

Democratic Party destined for purgatory

lead out of a long captivity to the stupid ill conceived decisions of the likes of Eddie Drollet and Sean Willis by a Joshua, a new breed of Leader, younger but more in tune to the political dynamics of the day and the future.

Any fantasy the Demos and One faith can force the Prime Minister to concede to a snap election would be to their own demise and politically suicidal. Currently insolvent the Demo Party with debts up to \$200,000 and no fund raising initiatives in progress or in the pipeline it's hardly likely there are still gullible supporters prepared to sponsor the grandiose delusions of a handful of greedy Demo leaders. Until there are audited financial reports presented by the devious Drollet at the 31 March Conference the majority of the

declining members will not make financial contributions.

The Democratic Party like the Children of Israel is going to aimlessly wonder in the wilderness for a lengthy spell till a new leader can be prepared to lead with integrity and servant hood. Rasmussen is the culprit and must be replaced a lot sooner than later. Future wise, Rasmussen will hardly rise above being a B grade lawyer destined to defend petty criminals in our Courts. Bishop will have his dirty laundry paraded for public consumption in the Court and he will never wear the crown he covets with a vengeful passion against Puna and his single follower George Maggie will be replaced as the MP for Tupapa at the next General Elections.

- George Pitt



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How to prepare?



A cyclone is perhaps the biggest danger this time of the year.

It's when homes and structures can be destroyed, trees and crops uprooted, electricity and water supplies cut off.

Here's what you can do before a cyclone. Store a portable radio, torch, spare batteries, stocks of fresh water and canned food, matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking gear, utensils, can opener and waterproof bags.

These items will help you get back on your feet quickly after a cyclone.

www.teaponga.com

“Journey to Development”

Keynote Address by Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna, 5th Development Partners Meeting 9-12 February 2015

Kia Orana
This is our 5th Development Partners Meeting and as such, I am pleased to say that this annual roundtable dialogue has become firmly entrenched as an ‘institution’. And as with all institutions, growth and nurturing is very important.

Strategic thinking and consultative planning;

Principles that support sustainability and long term benefits;

Quality management and upholding accountability;

Environmental responsibility

These are the tools that better inform our ‘institution’ so that the integrity of our work with development partners continues to be strengthened.

Along with each annual dialogue, I’m pleased to say that the Cook Islands has made considerable progress over recent years – more robust systems of organisational oversight, procedural competency, monitoring and audit controls, reporting and accounting.

We are in the business of institutional strengthening and this is our chance to show you, and discuss with you, how the partnerships have worked and can work best in our future endeavours.

We’ve themed our development discussions this week with the pathways of a journey. And the context of this voyage has the added dimension of 2015 being a celebratory year, for the Cook Islands.

The milestone of turning 50 will inevitably provide ample opportunity to raise questions over how far the Cook Islands has travelled – especially as it has done so under a unique political model like no other in the

world today. Self-government in free association continues to provoke a wide range of opinions but one thing is certain. We wouldn’t be where we are today if we didn’t have that special relationship with New Zealand.

The choices for development all those years ago were made on the foundation of working in partnership with New Zealand – as equal partners. Our founding father Papa Arapati Henry said as much during his leadership of the Cook Islands. Making our own choices and pursuing those choices by appreciating the value of partnerships helped drive the Cook Islands into the modern era of economic growth and maturity.

And when Papa Arapati said the Cook Islands would become financially independent within 25 years, he wasn’t that far off. We did it but not without the struggle of hardship and reform – not without realising the importance of having a key partner or two on side.

Of course, many of the transformations taking place in recent years would not have been anticipated by our founding leaders. Some of our earlier trends in fact have become even more pronounced over the years – and here in particular, I am referring to our resident population and the high degree of Cook Islands’ mobility.

The population trend provides an important context to our development talks today. While many of our small communities face human resource constraints, the Government is firmly committed to growing the opportunities for development and

advancement. The Outer Islands for example, which bear the brunt of high mobility are a strong focus of our priorities for sustainability.

Following the completion of five harbour development projects, the Outer Islands are in the midst of transformative change, underpinned by at least three significant avenues of development.

Energy, infrastructure, and water are the three key sectors where the Government has been closely engaged with development partners. Not only are we making enormous differences to the lives of those who are disadvantaged by isolation, distance, and cost, but we are installing a strong foothold for economic activity and growth.

The conversion of electricity to solar power in our Northern Group is expected to be near completion within two months and the launch of similar projects for the Southern Group islands get underway soon. Our Energy Efficiency programme into the Outer Islands and the shift to renewables will open the pathways for investment thanks to reduced costs in fuel shipping and consumption.

Heavy machinery destined for the Outer Islands is being shipped as soon as is practicable. Thanks to grant funds from the People’s Republic of China, all the islands will be enabled with the capacity for key local infrastructure work and upgrades – thereby providing a boost to living standards, and economic potential.

And while we, here on Rarotonga, tend to be fixated by every step in the major upgrade of our water system, we ought not to forget that the Outer Islands are also

benefiting from smaller scale transformations of their own water storage and supply. The SRIC programme for the Outer Islands is already one third of the way through its delivery of 6.6 million litres of storage capacity, and progressing very well.

Having touched on just three phases of development for the Outer Islands, it’s also fair to say that the Cook Islands remains at risk, and vulnerable on several fronts. I’d like to tell you that working well with our development partners will give us the answers. The truth is that solutions should always come from within.

It starts with us. Responsibility begins at home, and doing things for ourselves will go a long way toward finding the answers.

Obviously, there are times when we are going to need help and I’m pleased to say that many of our partners here this week have been instrumental in making sure we achieve our national goals and objectives. You are all playing important roles and we are grateful for your cooperative efforts to work closely alongside us.

You have no doubt heard already that the Cook Islands has achieved its targets under the MDGs. Well, we didn’t do it alone. And we didn’t do it so we could sit back and take a breather while the rest of the world catches up.

The Cook Islands is turning 50 and the mark of our success will not be the long list of achievements but the maturity of our will to do better. Our efforts to work closely with our development partners will be part of celebrating the journey.

Thank you very much. Kia Manuia.

Social media, the new marketing tool

Byron Brown is helping clients to benefit from the marketing potential of social media

By Charles Pitt

Rapid advances in technology can be daunting and mystifying but there are people like Byron Brown who can demystify that technology and show you how you can put it to work to promote, market and advance your business.

Brown has established a new business, Te Araveka (meaning-passing messages through digital form of media) to help his clients benefit from the marketing potential inherent in social media.

His company is in the business of providing a social media service. In short, he helps businesses market their services through social media.

Byron develops websites for businesses and this includes linkage to mobile phones so the site becomes mobile friendly. Byron says there are other companies who provide a similar service but he has also seen companies not getting results. He can help improve this.

Byron also conducts workshops for those in the tourism industry, rental homes business, song artists and small businesses also local communities to teach them how to set up websites and also how to promote and market themselves.

He has helped local Rugby League Club, Avatiu Eels to set up site which will include film footage of the club's history. He is also working on a website for CITV.

Born in New Zealand with a Niuean/English family background, Brown lived in Australia and initially set out to become a Marine Scientist, studying at NSW University. While studying, he attended marketing seminars.

On a visit to the Cook Islands, he met Nan Hauser, and ended up assisting her. His interest in the Cook Islands grew from there.

Byron is based at the Ora Fiduciary Trust building next to lotto shop. You can contact him



Byron Brown

there or on Ph 27 047 mob 56983 or at info@tearaveka.com

Byron's business is community oriented and he likes to help with local community related projects, such as in the sporting

area where he can donate his time and expertise.

At present he coaches the Eels U14 team and also performs in a dance team. He plays in the Eels B grade team.

The Ministry of Cultural Development (MOCD) with

Te Mire A'tu 2015

“A Celebration of Cook Islands Song Composing”

The 50th Constitution Celebrations

- Date & Time - Thursday 7th May 2015 at 7.30pm
- Venue - ARE KARIOI NUI (National Auditorium)
- Entries - The competition is OPEN to all Cook Islanders.

All Composers are to fill in the Entry Form etc, and hand it into the Ministry of Culture National Auditorium events management before or no later than Monday 16th March 2015-4pm.
Entry forms -available from MOCD.

Main Theme – THE 50TH CONSTITUTION CELEBRATIONS TE KORONA O TOKU MATAKEINANGA

Sub Themes:

1. Te Ui Tupuna I mua ake ka tae mai ei te Evangelia
2. Tae anga mai o te Evangelia e tae mai ki teia ra
3. Te tuatau o te kavamani 1965 e tae mai ki teia ra

The winning composition of the 2015 Mire A' Tu will become the 50th Constitution Celebrations THEME SONG to be performed at the Official Opening of the Te Maeva Nui (TMN15) Thursday July 23rd 2015.

**ALL ENQUIRIES TO BE FORWARDED TO: Ministry of Cultural Development
Robert Ioaba: Ph 20725 ext 219, email: robert.ioaba@cookislands.gov.ck**

Development Awards decided

On Tuesday evening at the Enea Manea Hall in Titikaveka, the following awards were presented to celebrate 50 years of development in the Cook Islands.

1. Albert Henry - Decade Award 1965-1974
2. Taira Rere - Lifetime Achievement Award
3. Tekake Williams - Decade Award 1975-1984
4. Sir Thomas Davis KBE - Lifetime Achievement Award
5. Ewan Smith & George Cowan - Decade Award 1985-1994
6. Mana Strickland - Lifetime Achievement Award

7. Te Ipukareka Society - Decade Award 1995-2004
8. CI Red Cross - Decade Award 2005-2014
& 8b. Te Kainga o Pa Taunga - Decade Award 2005-2014
9. Cook Islands National Council of Woman - Lifetime Achievement Award

There were a total of 129 entries.

The event was part of the Development Partners Meeting taking place on Rarotonga during the week. The theme of the evening was "1960s Island style."





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Taro Chips 150g



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each

Samoa Crunch Lays Sour Cream
Taro BBQ 150g and Chives 184g



\$4.00
each



\$6.00
each

Ruffles Original
Cut 184g



\$5.80
each

Ocean Fresh Laundry
Powder 1kg



\$3.10
packet

Imperial Mackerel in
Oil or Tomato Sauce



\$2.30
per can

Tang Orange & Orange
mango drink sachet



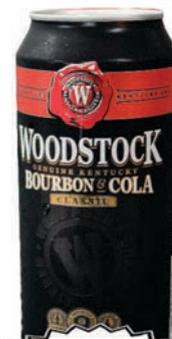
\$0.50
each

Poppa Jacks
100g



\$5.20
each

Woodstock



\$5.00
per can

Waiwera water
350mls



\$1.20
each

Protex Soap
Gentle, Active, Herbal



\$2.00
each

Budget Dog Food



\$4.40
Each

Anchor UHT
Milk 1lt



\$3.10
Each

Mr Noodles 5pack
Special Chicken & Curry Chicken



\$0.60
each

\$3.00
per 5pk

Special Value Magic
Shapes Cereal 794g



\$11.20
each

Special Value Cocoa
Cereal 794g



\$11.20
each

Zany Fruits Cereal
794g



\$12.30
each

Taula Beer



\$4.00
660mls



\$2.00
330mls

European Union Ambassador on official visit to the Cook Islands

The European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, HE Andrew Jacobs, is on an official visit to the Cook Islands this week (9-12 February) to attend the annual Development Partners meeting.

"The European Union and the Cook Islands have over a decade long history of co-operation and partnership which is focussed on reducing and eventually eradicating poverty. With the country on track to achieve all of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets by 2015 the Cook Islands has clearly been successfully implementing its development programme. The European Union is pleased to have contributed to these efforts and remains committed to assist the country further, with a new programme signed until 2020," Ambassador Jacobs said.

"The main focal areas for European Union assistance are the Sanitation sector, where we support the implementation of the Sanitation Sector Plan and Renewable Energy where we are providing NZ\$8.3 million for photovoltaics in the outer islands. This is a concrete example of the EU's strong commitment to help address climate change issues and assist our partner to break away from their dependence on fossil fuel."

"2015 has been designated



as the European Year for Development and it is also the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We see our partnership with the Cook Islands as critical in helping us share our stories of change and demonstrate that, together with our partners in the Pacific, concrete results can be achieved for the most vulnerable," Ambassador Jacobs added.

During the visit, Ambassador Jacobs will be meeting with the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Hon. Henry Puna, the Minister of Finance the Hon. Mark Brown and the Acting New Zealand High Commissioner Aimee Jephson, amongst

others. Ambassador Jacobs will participate in various side events, notably the sessions on Women's Economic and Political Rights, on Climate Change in the Cook Islands and the session dedicated to Future Development Paths and their Potential Impacts on Cook Islands.

Background:

Ambassador Jacobs is the European Union Ambassador to the Pacific and is based in Suva, Fiji. The sanitation sector is the focus of European Union assistance to the Cook Islands with the current programme providing NZ\$4 million. The purpose of these funds are

to assist the Cook Islands to achieve Cook Island's sanitation policy objectives. Assistance is also being provided by the European Union, in joint management with the Asian Development Bank, for the construction of photovoltaic mini-grids in the Cook Islands' outer islands and to a renewable energy project in Rarotonga for a total of NZ\$8.3 million. The European Union in the past has (under the 9th EDF) assisted the Cook Islands with the construction of the Pukapuka cyclone shelter which can house 500 people and is also used as a sports facility and community meeting place.

Japan grant contracts signed

Three Grant Contracts were signed today, 10 February 2015, under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The three projects were

- The Establishment of Water Tanks in Atiu Island for a grant up to NZ\$ 114,666,
- The Development of Irrigation System to Promote Sustainable Taro Plantation for a grant up to NZ\$ 85,693 and
- The Reconstruction of Apii Te Uki Ou Primary

School for a grant up to NZ\$ 120,000

The Water Tanks project in Atiu Island will establish 13 water tanks at 12 sites to resolve water shortage problems and to improve water quality.

The Taro Plantation project will develop an irrigation system to promote increased sustainable taro production through the collection and storage of water for use to irrigate taro plantations in Puna Keia during dry months

of the year.

The Apii Te Uki Ou school project will replace two dilapidated and damaged classrooms and ensure a healthy and safe learning environment.

Mr. Reki Kataoka, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan to the Cook Islands attended the ceremony and signed Grant Contracts with Mr. Vaine Paretoa, Deputy Mayor of Atiu Island, Mr. Teremoana Atariki, Mayor of Mangaia Island and Ms.

Nadine Newnham, President of the Board of Governors for Apii Te Uki Ou.

Mr Kataoka sincerely hoped that with the cooperation and assistance of these three partners, the projects would progress smoothly toward their scheduled completion dates. He also wished that all three projects would become additional symbols of the long, meaningful and friendly relationship between the people of Japan and the people of the Cook Islands.

Letters to the Editor

OCI position clarified

Dear Editor
In response to an editorial in your paper dated 21 January 2015 titled "no mandate for coalition" I wish to clarify that the Hon Teina Bishop, Leader of One Cook Islands Movement, has been mandated and approved by the OCI Executive and the Executives and Members of the Tupapa and Are Nikau constituencies, to undertake negotiations with the 2 political parties i.e. CIP and DEMOS with a view to reaching an agreement to form a coalition government with either party should the occasion necessitate.

I can also confirm, that the door was kept open for these negotiations to proceed based on certain policy parameters and the opportunity was given to CIP on 4 occasions (2 with CIP representatives and 2 with the PM himself and Hon Bishop) to reach some compromise on a potential way forward. However, these negotiations were unsuccessful.

The Hon Bishop was also mandated and approved to

enter into dialogue with the DEMOS and as far as I'm aware, the response to this dialogue has been both positive and receptive to a potential coalition subject to agreement between both parties on mutual policy issues. A draft coalition agreement has been prepared but not finalized as it is awaiting the outcome of the pending by-election in Vaipae/Tautu.

At all times, the OCI Executive have been kept abreast and involved in the dialogue between both political parties and refutes any insinuations that Hon Bishop has been acting alone in negotiations undertaken thus far. OCI has a Negotiating Team who have been mandated to finalize any Coalition Agreement following the conclusion of negotiations and every opportunity was given to both parties for dialogue to take place.

*George Turia
President
One Cook Islands
Movement*

Tepaki on the rise

By Charles Pitt

Developer Tim Tepaki announced on Monday afternoon that he will be re-activating his interests in the development sector and that he is looking forward to making a significant contribution to the economy which he describes as having endured some tough times but is capable of being resuscitated. For Tepaki it's the start of a long walk back from the troubled Vaimaanga hotel project and the boutique hotels he once controlled.

Tepaki said there was a period when his former business affairs were subject to receivership but that was now passed and he is clear to pursue new ventures. He said his company "Tepaki Group-Cook Islands Ltd" is still in existence and is in the process of being re-activated.

As a priority Tepaki intends to tidy up a few loose ends, these being to consider legal action against companies and individuals whose actions and inactions he alleges contributed to his earlier demise. For example, in one case he has discovered that his company was allegedly cited as a guarantor without his written authority. Tepaki advised that within the next few days, this case will be referred to the Police for investigation.

Tepaki said he has recently been approached by government to assist with the scoping of a possible major development of a property in New Zealand.

He revealed that during the past year, opportunities had presented themselves to work on government projects but that he had declined on the basis that it was his wish to remain firmly in the private sector. Given the right incentives, economic recovery must be driven by the private sector says Tepaki.

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?

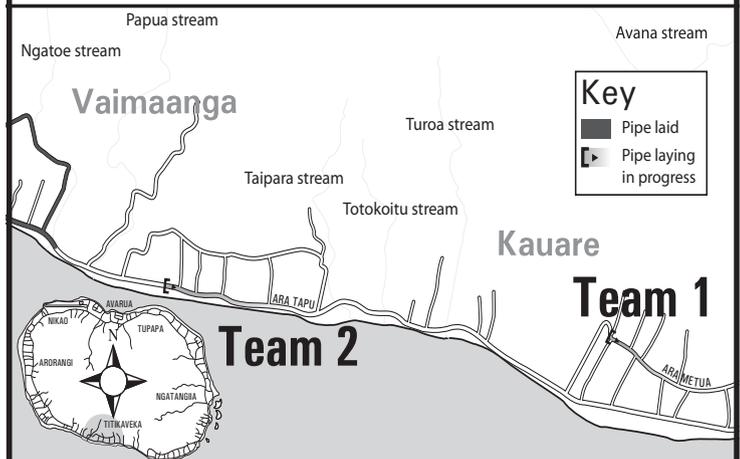
We are upgrading the existing water supply network for all of Rarotonga along both the inner and outer ring roads or loop roads as they are sometimes referred to.

Work will continue in Vaimaanga and also start up in Kauare/Titikaveka heading in an anti-clockwise direction. **Team 1** work crew are on the Ara Metua (inner ring road). **Team 2** work crew are on the Ara Tapu (outer ring road).

Pipe laying is scheduled from 9 February 2015 and estimated to finish mid to late February. Valve construction and full road reinstatement may take longer. **Teams will be working from 7am-6pm Monday to Saturday.**

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.

CITTI Annual graduation ceremony



Not just a time for celebration, but a time to reflect on, “the changing landscape of the vocational learning needs in the Cook Islands,” commented Cook Islands Trade Training Institute Director Owen Lewis in his speech that officially opened the 2015 CITTI graduation ceremony.

On Friday afternoon students and guests gathered at the Aroanui Hall to acknowledge the commitment and academic achievements of students and scholarship awardees for the annual graduation ceremony.

Several significant changes have contributed to the progress of CITTI as a vocational institute and Director Lewis, in his opening speech, acknowledged adjustments to curriculum, partnering with London City and Guilds, gaining registration with New Zealand Qualifications Authority and being granted consents to assess from New Zealand Industry Training Organisations in the trades, hospitality and retail fields, as catalysts for CITTI’s development. “This programme represents a significant milestone; one which we feel paves the way for a new

way of learning in the Cook Islands.”

Present to celebrate the success of the eighty-six graduates was Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Hon Henry Puna who acknowledged New Zealand’s support to education in the Cook Islands. He also took time to touch on the success of a select group of underachieving young Cook Islands men who through CITTI had, “found success in the education system.”

Twenty-three students from the Hospitality and Services Faculty were awarded City and Guilds Certificates, Diplomas and Awards in Food and Beverage Services, Hair and Beauty, Bartending and Barista Skills.

Forty-five students from the Trades and Technology Faculty received EIT/CITTI National Certificates in Trade Skills, Allied Trades, Building and Construction and Electrical Engineering. Included in this group of graduates were a number of students who had completed either a short course or master class in surveying through CITTI.

Newly appointed Principals

of Tereora College (Ms Tania Morgan), Titikaveka College (Ms Gaylyn Lockington) and Arorangi School (Mrs Mairi Heather) were also participants in the day’s celebrations. They represented a select group of teachers who were awarded the Aspiring Principals’ Certificate through Waikato University. The National Certificate for First Time Principals’

- a programme conducted by the University of Auckland was also awarded to Mata Hetland and Teina Tearii. The Ministry of Education also celebrated the graduation of ten teachers who gained their Cook Islands Teachers’ Diplomas as Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary School teachers.

Deputy New Zealand High Commissioner, Ms Aimee Jephson, in her address acknowledged, “New Zealand’s commitment to support education in the Cook Islands,” before confirming seven scholarship awards for 2015. Two NZAID/AusAid Regional Development Scholarships were awarded – one for the completion of a Postgraduate Diploma in Obstetrics and

Gynaecology, and the second for study towards a Bachelor of Oral Health with the Fiji National University. Five New Zealand Aid Pacific Scholarships were also acknowledged and these will allow Cook Islanders to study Applied Management, Media and Creative Technology and Commerce at the Universities of Auckland and Waikato and at the Manukau Institute of Technology.

CITTI plans to further expand the institutes’ portfolio of local and internationally accredited programmes this year to offer students greater vocational training options in country. However, some focus areas have remained the same says Lewis. “Unchanged in this development is the ongoing pursuit of academic excellence which has always been a cornerstone of education in the Cook Islands - our graduates today are examples of this. We truly believe that we can now offer quality vocational training in the Cook Islands that negates the need for anyone to have to search offshore to fulfil their training needs.”

Farewell Qatar

By George Turia

This is our final update on what has been an awesome experience in visiting Qatar to attend the 2015 World Men's Handball Championships as part of the Media Team from the Cook Islands. We wish to acknowledge the International Handball Federation as well as our own Cook Islands Handball Federation for the fantastic opportunity provided to us to travel to Qatar and report on this Championships.

We acknowledge and thank also, our host nation Qatar, the Government, the Qatar 2015 Organizing Committee, the many volunteers, advisers, fellow media colleagues from around the world and our hotel chaperones and drivers, who made our stay in Qatar a marvellous and enriching experience. The memories we brought back to the Cook Islands will certainly be long lasting and one's we will always cherish.

We have been exposed to a unique situation where through the sport of Handball, we have realized it is more than just a sport, it's actually a culture within a culture and an activity which involves the whole nation from every man, woman and child, to every institution that exists in a developing nation. Handball is a way of life which cuts across all boundaries and lifestyles of society and supported at the highest levels of governance.

We have witnessed the incredible developments taking place in this beautiful country and observed with interest, the diversity of its cultures. From a mere desert wasteland which is barren covered only with sand and rock dunes, to a sprawling metropolis of modern day society where massive buildings, human resources and technology are nothing but the best there is to offer.

Sports is huge in Qatar. Today, I believe it is the sporting mecca of the world. It's also world class with the best services and supporting facilities and it is increasing by the day through oil rich investments and wise infrastructure development. Qatar offers much more than we can imagine and its leaders



are to be commended for their vision and commitment to investing in their people in an environment that is sustainable and compatible to their needs.

In terms of Handball, the priorities in the Pacific will need to focus on how the sport can be developed on a regional basis if we are to contemplate participating at future events of this scale. Education and development of the sport are critical issues to consider and focusing on perhaps initiating a Regional Handball in Schools Programme as a stepping stone, to progressing building capacity, coaching and infrastructure resource development. These are critical to ensure the ongoing management, participation and competitive aspects of Handball are truly reflected in addition to all other sporting codes within individual Pacific countries.

This has definitely been a learning curve for us all and especially being exposed to the operations of some of the best sports and media commentators in the world who have provided a bird's eye view of the 2015

Handball Championships through global exposure on TV, print and radio media. It has been good to see how they operate, how they link back to their home countries but more importantly, how important the media is in today's society.

Since our time in Qatar, we have watched some amazing matches and even began to get emotionally involved especially with the host nation who became our favourites because of the similarities between the people and lifestyles of our own Cook Islands culture.

We attended the finals between France and host nation Qatar with France managing to edge out Qatar to win but to the Qatari people, it didn't matter. They gave their best performance ever and that was all their country asked of them.

We were entertained by a fantastic closing ceremony extravaganza which was absolutely unbelievable where children and technology played a significant role in beaming the ceremony live to the global sporting world plus the incredible light show radiating

throughout the ceremony of the presentations awards ceremony presented by the Emir himself whose presence added a sense of nostalgia and pride to the people of Qatar.

To conclude this incredible journey, there was a spectacular fireworks display with the whole stadium lit up in dazzling colours and the grand finale appearances of top artists Mani Hoffman, Taio Cruz and Kylie Minogue. Yes, Qatar most definitely was the heartbeat of the Handball Championships and proved to the world, it had demonstrated the spirit of true sportsmanship when the flag handover ceremony to France was performed to the deafening sounds of applause from a packed stadium offering its support and congratulations in what will be an incredible act to follow at the next World Handball Championships.

So from a very satisfied media team from the Cook Islands, we say once again, congratulations to Qatar for a job well done and this is your media team signing off from Qatar 2015.

Letter to the Editor

Too close for comfort, what if something goes wrong?



October 2011 the Rena went aground with 1700 of heavy fuel oil

Dear Editor
Triad Petroleum Limited has seen the EIA for an over-water pipeline. With due respect to the Director and staff of NES, and to those who have prepared the report, the EIA is not fit for purpose.

It is not fit to allow the public to comment meaningfully on the proposal.

It is not fit to allow the Council to do its job under the Environment Act.

Any project permit that NES issues, relying on these documents, would be contrary to the Act and struck down by the Courts.

There is an "elephant in the room"-huge, right in

front of the eyes of the NES. It is a blindingly obvious environmental risk factor. This is a proposal to bring a 180 metre long, 50,000 tonne, oil tanker to within less than 400 metres of an open ocean exposed coastline, an estimated seven times each year!

To be very clear-the EIA proposal is to operate a facility so that a ship the same size as the Rena-something almost the length of two rugby fields-can come to just twice its own length from the reef.

For those who know a bit about ships; this tanker will not just be sailing past our island with full control speed and steerage. The tanker

must steer for the reef and then slow down and come to a complete stop. It must take up moorings and then it must sit, unprotected, for as long as it takes to discharge fuel and get away again.

Then, from a complete standstill, in open ocean with wind, current and waves, it must cast off from moorings without drifting onto the reef. The plan is to do this without any tug of a size and "pull" to take charge and drag this 50,000 tonne vessel clear of the reef if anything goes wrong.

Who remembers the Thor Lisbeth, high and dry at Nikao some years ago? Try to imagine a ship 25 times its

size, stuck on the reef.

So what happens if something goes wrong? We already know.

In October 2011 the Rena went aground with 1700 of heavy fuel oil (its own fuel) aboard. When some of that oil escaped, it caused huge environmental damage along Bay of Plenty coastlines. Ships this big run on a sort of oil that turns to a glue-like black sludge on beaches. This sludge will remain on beaches for years unless removed.

Rena clean up costs are estimated at \$235 million, of which New Zealand taxpayers may have to foot the bill for \$46 million. Does the Cook Islands public feel lucky-or



does it feel reckless?

Lets be clear, if we had two large tugs, full salvage and fire fighting capabilities, open ocean oil containment systems and rigorous navigational requirements and procedures, we can make this risk smaller-but only at a very large cost-and we can never eliminate that risk.

There is barely a mention of this risk factor and its

appropriate management and cost in the EIA. More importantly, there is no open and transparent weighing of the competing environmental and economic factors that seem to be in the minds of the authors so that all of us can comment and study those figures.

In fact, this proposal does not make economic sense-in some ways, given the 2020 target of government for

100% renewables, it makes even less economic sense than the Toagate policy of the late Sir Terepai Maoate.

So, we have the scenario where all the environmental risks and costs are on the Cook Islands public-but an EIA that barely scratches the surface. This is the "elephant" in the room. But Chris Vaile Triad asks this. All of us-including the the EIA authors and NES-

watched the Rena disaster unfold on our television screens. Perhaps it is wrong to talk about elephants; should Triad instead talk about sand and ostriches?

More on the economic madness of this proposal in coming days. There are much better economic and environmental solutions to cheaper fuel than this one.

- *Blindly Obvious*



One batch at a time

By Derek Fox

I've known Chris Douglas for a long time. I first met him more than a dozen years ago, and he was already well established in the Cook Islands back then; but only recently have I had a chance to sit down and really talk to him.

He's passionate about food, oh he doesn't say so or use those words, but listen for a while, throw in the odd question and listen again and you'll see.

He got into food while he was still at school – I did too, at the consumption end – but Chris began working as a salad hand at the weekends. I doubt very much that we used the fancy term 'chef' back then and even now Chris uses the down to earth – 'cook'.

After school he really got into it, he did an apprenticeship in Whanganui; but even after he'd been out cooking for ten years his mother continued to urge him to 'get a proper job'.

Chris grew up around the Taranaki/Whanganui area, although his whakapapa links him to Tainui.

He worked around the country a bit spending seven or eight years in Queenstown where he got into catering on film sets, and that's what led him to the Cook Islands. From Queenstown he moved to Wellington briefly - still working for the movies – and then in 1983 he came here to work on the film 'The Silent One' being shot in Aitutaki.

About the same time a youngish chap called Jack Cooper washed up on the beach and bought the Vaima restaurant, he needed a cook.

They've pretty much been in business together ever since. They still cater for movies; they kept pukus full during the filming of the BBC/New Zealand co-production shot on Rarotonga late last year.

These days you won't find Chris sweating in the kitchen at Trader Jacks or Bamboo Jacks on a regular basis – he has a big input into how both are operating - but he has another little project going which illustrates how he keeps his hand in. It also offers some insights into how people might – by using what's available

around us all, and a little bit of entrepreneurial skill – create a nice little income.

He's always liked chilies and started playing around with a recipe for chilli sauce, when they thought they'd got it right they started making it in bulk and trying it out on people; and it took off. Now the two big supermarkets on Rarotonga stock it and one or two other places as well as Trader Jacks and Bamboo Jacks.

The ingredients are simple, chilies supplied by a couple of local growers, salt, vinegar and lime juice, for their main basic sauce; with fruit like mango and banana added to others.

As I listen it seems to me that it's the fun of it that keeps Chris interested.

From the sauce they've branched out to pickles and chutney and jam, all using local produce and making use of them when they're available. For example just before Christmas Chris noticed that the mangoes were coming on but that many were being blown off the trees before they could ripen. So rather than letting them go to waste – and having a plan in mind – he advertised for mature but still green mangoes offering two bucks a kg; good Christmas money for the kids he thought too.

Weell ---- did they get some fruit, about half a tons worth. But not to worry it's all been peeled and cut up in 3kg bags in the freezer ready for processing over the next twelve months.

Chris reckons the secret to their sauce and preserves business is to make small batches. The biggest cost is getting the bottles and containers up from New Zealand.

When they're ready, with ingredients and bottles or jars all lined up, they're off; if it's sauce the batch is a hundred bottles, about 20-litres. If it's pickle or chutney the batch is about 40-kgs. The worst part according to Chris is hand filling the bottles and jars; he's got a bottling machine on his wish list but not just yet.

Experimenting and making use of the fruit as it ripens, not allowing it to go to waste,



looms large in his thinking. One of his creations which sounds pretty interesting is, was born when he noticed a good supply of pawpaw and oranges so he played around with a jam made up with those two fruits; but just as he reckoned he got it right, the oranges ran out. I've generously offered my humble palate for future experimental creations.

Chris and Jack haven't bothered with exporting their products although that's not to say they won't in the future. But in a way the market comes to them in the form of the thousands of Kiwis and Aussies in particular who come here for holidays each year.

Sure the locals enjoy the sauces and preserves too. Chris saw a local in the supermarket the other day with a couple of bottles of sauce who shared the fact that, "I put it on everything except weet bix."

Not all visitors might take that approach, but Chris says, "Imagine if all the resorts had pawpaw and orange jam available with their toast in the mornings."

He thinks, as many others have also told me in the course of these interviews, that people should forget about exporting and concentrate instead on satisfying the visitor and local markets. But they need to be more innovative in how they do that.

For example while the 'mamas at the market' have delicious products to sell, most of that food needs to be sold that day or taken home and eaten fairly soon after. On the other hand if some of them had access to a commercial kitchen and took advantage of the available fruits

and vegetables when they were plentiful and turned them into jams and other preserves – like the pawpaw and orange jam – they too could be available to the resorts and other customers.

But they would need to step up from the home cooking approach utilized for the food at the market. They would need jars and other containers, and they would need to be able to wait while those products took the time it takes for them to sell. They would need funding and marketing help – but it is possible.

Chris and Jack's chilli sauces and preserves market themselves, they're that good. Yes they have the infrastructure to be able to experiment and move when the fruit's ready, and then to be able to wait to get their money back as the product gradually sells.

But their value is that they have shown that it can be done. The fruit is there or can be. The resorts, their visitors and locals too, could do with those products.

People probably get to know the chilli sauce and pickles/chutney/jams by accident. But the packaging is appealing and many, some of them regular visitors, want the products for their own consumption, for souvenirs and presents for mates at home.

So along with all the other things he does, the former schoolboy salad hand – whose mother spent years telling him to get a proper job - keeps an eye out for fruit. He keeps a check too on the stocks in the cupboard, and gets ready to do it all over again – one batch at a time.

Moving Forward – UNESCO and the Pacific, Partnership and Action



Following on from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa last year, the Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO hosted a meeting of Pacific National Commissions. This meeting was to discuss the outcomes paper from Samoa, identify programme priority areas and provide both the UNESCO Headquarters and Pacific office with the strategies and actions that the region believes are important in supporting both our own development and the mandate of UNESCO.

The workshop focussed on four areas – Education for Sustainable Development, Youth, Pacific Science and Culture and Creative Industries. Participants were extremely lucky to have key note speakers and scene setters such as Caren Rangī, Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban and Lena Wong amongst others. Each session produced individual reports

so that the different offices of UNESCO can respond to the different strategies identified.

The ESD report calls for support to countries to ensure curricula are relevant to the 21st century and that the skills and knowledge that young people develop will lead them into the jobs and careers of the future. It also had a focus on strengthening indigenous knowledge and cultural programmes as these contribute to the development of young peoples' identity and their place as global citizens.

Youth runs across all UNESCO programmes. There was an emphasis on ensuring that engagement with youth is genuine and that opportunities for youth to be involved in decision making and planning need to be done in such a way that youth run the agenda and not be a topic on it. There was also a focus on supporting initiatives that address identity, wellbeing and livelihoods.

Ensuring quality science education and research, mentoring young scientists, strengthening scientific institutions, and enhancing community participation and engagement were all identified as ways to support the capacity of Pacific Island countries to sustainably manage their environment and natural resources. Building synergies between scientific and indigenous knowledge was seen as most important to reinforce resilience to the impacts of climate change and disaster.

Many countries in the region have not ratified the majority of UNESCO Cultural conventions and how to reduce the barriers to this and prepare submissions was discussed. The Cook Islands has done a lot of the ground work in this area over the last 3-5 years and it is hoped that this is something that could be achieved quite quickly. Recognising creative industries as a valid career pathway and part of our economy

was also discussed. Particularly valuing and celebrating creativity with the phrase "building bridges and making mirrors" used to represent networking and sharing of creativity. A Pacific Theatre Group, the Black Friars, spoke of their experiences along with a presentation of sung Shakespearean sonnets which made them so much easier to listen too.

The Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO is currently supporting four other UNESCO funded activities; a documentary being made on the Mararo in Mitiaro, an Environmental Youth Camp, development work with Netball Cook Islands and the conference and festival of the National Youth Council.

If you would like to know about the work of UNESCO in the Cook Islands please check our website (www.unesco.org.ck) or contact the Secretariat at the Ministry of Education.

Making new friends

Kia Orana my name is Hayley-Rose McNabb. I am 16 years old turning 17 in August. I have five siblings (four sisters and one brother) Michaela and Gabrielle (15) who are twins, Bobby (8), Conan (7) and Analena (3). My parents are Andrea nee Woonton and Robert McNabb. My mother is in the Royal NZ Airforce and my dad, a former Cook Islands shot put champion, is in the NZ Police. My Nana who I now live with is Shona Pitt and my Great-Nana is Mama Lingi and I'm sure many of you may know her.

I was born in Rarotonga and returned in December last year for the Christmas holidays after living for several years in New Zealand. When the holidays got close to ending I made the decision to stay here with my Nana and I said farewell to the rest of my family as they returned back to our home in Fielding, New Zealand.

I have just had my first full week at Tereora College and I think I have settled in after starting this new school. It's not as big as my last school (that I only just started last year as well) so it is easier to find my way around, also the people are much friendlier and welcoming as they gave me tutorials throughout the school and showed me the way to all my classes.

I have really enjoyed making new friends, Elizabeth and Terai are my mains but the others are also very funny and have a good buzz to be with. I also liked getting to know my teachers and the ways they will help me to achieve the best of results for all my internals and externals.

I am currently a Year 12 student doing NCEA Level 2 so it is a bit harder than last year but it just means that I have to put in more study and make sure I do all my homework as well as focus in all my classes which will be an improvement from the previous years.

The subjects I am taking this year are a follow on from last year they are Math, English, Physics, Accounting and Economics. These subjects will help me with my future career as either a business women or

a teacher. I did also do Fashion and Textiles but unfortunately they don't have that as an option here at Tereora, but that's okay.

As well as spending my days at school, three nights a week I work at the Flying Boat, a fish and chip business. I've been working for a few months now, and it's a way of making some pocket money for me. I've also made good friends with my workmates Marion and Vanea. These two both crack me up all the time, with Vanea being "Miss ANZ" and making the best salad ever with her secret ingredients and her daily routine that is one of a kind. Marion on the other hand is there playing her sounds and hitting all the notes in every song. She is truly an amazing singer. However when we are actually working Marion is really serious, making sure she gets the orders right and that the food is up to perfection before I serve them out while Vanea is using her bank teller skills checking that she gets the right amount of money from customers and gives the correct change back.

Outside of work Marion and I do workouts because we want to get fit for the upcoming netball season and be ready for the training and games when they begin. Overall, I am really excited for what the rest of 2015 will bring!
—Hayley-Rose McNabb



Hayley-Rose McNabb and cousin Charles Trevor

2015 promises deeper Pacific regionalism

Kicking off 2015, Dame Meg Taylor, the new Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), is firm that a new year's resolution must be enhanced Pacific regionalism.

"The Framework for Pacific Regionalism, endorsed by our Leaders in July 2014, calls for a new regional public policy process," Secretary General Taylor explained recently to a gathering of executives of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) in Suva. "It demands game changing interventions in support of a new regional politic, and we must be prepared to implement the Leaders' vision."

Pacific Plan Review team members that seeded the new strategy for regionalism have been examining the implications of the Framework on current regional systems with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, CROP Executives and Heads of Pacific Islands Forum Missions in Suva, Fiji, from 3-6 February. "The region we found during

the Pacific Plan Review in 2013 was frankly quite fragmented," observed reviewer Ms. Noumea Simi of the Government of Samoa. "The region needed something more potent to realise the benefits of collective effort."

Reviewers Mr. Robert Igara of Papua New Guinea and Mr. Peter Bazeley of the UK assert that a focus on the system of regionalism is important. "We need to look at whether the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," they explain, "This means focusing on the collective outcomes from the interaction of regional players, not simply the different parties. It requires greater inclusivity in support of regional outcomes, particularly for civil society and the private sector." Dame Meg Taylor reiterates, "At the heart of deepened regionalism is clear control by Leaders of the regional agenda. If we can't collectively support the realisation of Leaders' vision then we need to re-think what we're here to do."

Tanu Maniota

Tiana Haxton is a 15 year old student who lives in Mitiaro. This is her second story on Maniota in Mitiaro.

By Tiana Haxton

Papa Neke led and Mum followed the entire way to Papa Pouao's inland planting area. They deviated from the main throughway onto a track cutting diagonally across an open space. There were large trees to one side; standing tall in contrast. Mum thinks they were big old chestnut and mango trees. They motored on until they sighted the maniota patch and slowed to a stop. They dismounted horse power rated rides and promptly marched over knee high ground cover; papa ready with his bush knife. The maniota was growing in rows; not yet harvested. Right there, nearby, was an impressive clumping of banana trees with thickset trunks. In the semi shade of these, was an entanglement of the previously pulled up maniota plants.

Papa detangled the plants piled high there. With purpose, he handled one plant at a time; cutting branches off and being mindful to preserve the thickness and length of each branch. Where the limbs were either too thin and wispy or too hard and wooded; he lopped these off to discard. The best or main/tumu component was then stacked. Clay helped the adults tidy up by scattering off-cuts around the bases of the nearby banana trees. This

practice returns goodness back into the ground as mulch to compost down.

Papa sourced some rope/taura from his patikara/bike. He suggested tying our stacked lengths together to create bundles/ruru maniota. Papa secured the first bundle while mum managed the second ruru. Papa and Mum picked up these bundles and balanced them on their shoulders. Their loads jutted a metre forward and back of their shouldering balance points. Mum felt armed and dangerous, like she could relate to the art of jousting on horseback of a Medieval Era and hoped she wouldn't encounter traffic.

It was decided Clay would travel with Mum. He sat awkwardly helping hold the cargo up overhead. Laden, they back tracked, retracing only as far as the fork in the road where they now took the other prong. They puttered along on this alternative tangent nearing a land mark rise. Here they made an acute left hand turn before another left. This second turn is big and sweeping. It was with great relief to stop and put down awkward loads which had been digging into muscle and bone. Clay clambered off and Mum sped away to keep her promise to me; returning home to pick me up.

Mum made a point of getting her bush knife before ferrying

me inland/ Auta . We reached Papas inland planting area and discovered that they had started planting without us; I suppose the ebb in tide has a duration and planting needs to be done within this window frame of time. They had completed three rows; already.

They updated us; Papa in charge and Clay excited with the head start. Papa explained that some weeks earlier he had organized for this area to be ploughed/ arote. This breaks up the reddish soil. This land was also hoe-d to render length mounding of earth; furrows/ Puku One. Clay piped up that we had to plonk maniota lengths; one after another on top of the mounded earth. Clay pointed out his example; his furrow was top lined with lengths for us to emulate. Mum and I did as we were asked and shown.

The next task required wielding a bush knife better suited to mum, and not to me until I'm more able to handle a big knife. As was, each maniota length got poked diagonally into the ground; about three hand spans deep/ toru rima oonu; below ground where roots will grow. Then, an equivalent length was reserved to protrude, angling upward above the ground. It was sliced through at this height. This aerial portion is more exposed to the elements to encourage new shoots; new growth. The

remainder branch you hold onto to process further.

To recall, one branch or tumu maniota divides up into three or four off-cuts/ kata. Papa recommended spacing each kata maniota shoulder width apart. We continued to insert remainder of branch length into the ground, further chopping to divide only to pick up another full length to repeat the process. Every now and then we'd come across a large clod of earth in the mound proving too resistant to push into or through and so we would resort to stepping out our planting a little further along and apart.

Papa was quick to notice that mums blade needed sharpening for her cuts through were not clean. Her blunt chops were splitting the tops of the maniota insertions. He was matter of fact. Mum thought she better dash home to use the table grinder to sharpen with and returned promptly to complete our task.

All together, we planted six 20m furrows/ puku one of maniota. Working steadily, it took us two hours. We recycled and transplanted arrowroot. We enjoyed tanu maniota learning job specific words like puku one, tumu, ruru, and kata. Our favourite new word is Opuku which means 'ones' potential. This is in reference to people as suppose to plants; potentiate.

'The ugly truth – is revealed' It's just another form of bullying!

By *Teherenui Koteka*

Recently I noticed something on Facebook. What I noticed was a page called 'The ugly – truth is revealed'. This page was created by anonymous persons and was being used to bad mouth people without the victim ever knowing who was picking on them. Yes most of us are no stranger to some form of cyber bullying; however, receiving a nasty text is a lot different to being hounded on by someone you don't even know in the presence of 500 people. I cannot comprehend why someone would do such a thing, and maybe they thought it was cool or noble to share what they thought of these people, but to me and many others this is seen as just another form of bullying.

I'm here to voice the opinions of many of my peers. Bullying is not okay! This kind of torture (cyber bullying) maybe newer to our society here in the Cook Islands but that doesn't make it any less cruel. In my opinion cyber bullying can in some cases be much worse than the typical type of bullying. When explicit posts that expose your personal lives are put up for the public to see, it's no joke! The worst part is you can guarantee that the majority of it isn't true. To sit behind a computer screen and make fun of the way people look or call them stupid immature names is a disgusting practice. Especially when you're too chicken to say who you are. To willingly hide behind a false identity in the hope of publicly humiliating people is not the way to live. Now-a-

days we teens call people like that 'catfish'.

To those who were unfortunate enough to be singled out by whoever was running this page, I encourage you to not let this affect your self esteem. I personally know each and every one of you who has been victimized (in some way at least), and I can assure you that I, and many others know that you have done nothing to deserve to be picked on in the way you have. I hope that none of you takes what has been said about you to heart. After all why care about what someone has to say about you when you know it's not true. Shay Mitchell once said "I realized that bullying never has to do with you. It's the bully who's insecure". I urge you to heed Shay Mitchell's words. Never let a bully get the best of you, especially this one because only someone so insecure could hide behind a false name and criticize everything good about you.

Lastly to whoever created this abomination of a page, what you did was cowardly. I sincerely hope that after hearing what everyone at school has to say about your page, and in extension you the admin, you go and apologize to all the people you insulted! In conclusion I'd just like to re-highlight the idea that any form of bullying is bad. Don't follow in the footsteps of whoever created 'The ugly truth – is revealed'. No one has the right to call someone ugly, especially if they do it hiding behind a computer screen. Remember guys no one likes a key board warrior.

Truth?

By *Luccianne Vainerere*

Lucci is a year 13 student at Tereora College

We all have flaws that we don't want noticed but end up being pointed out anyway or past experiences that weren't great rubbed in our faces again. People seem to remember all the bad you've done in your lifetime and let it over power all the good you've equally accomplished. From this, especially as teenagers we allow it to cloud our minds and it damages us internally, however it all depends on how you as a person absorb it all.

It's called the ugly truth or the harsh reality, either way it sucks and it's painful. What you need to do is understand how to take in all the criticism that comes your way and turn it into something beautiful that will leave you humble and classy. "When life makes you have to put up with mean and hateful people, just think of them as sand paper. They may scratch you or rub you the wrong way, but eventually you'll end up smooth and polished and the sand paper; its just going to be worn out and ugly." We are, after all only human so we're not perfect, if a narcissistic person hides behind a veil and puts you down with their "honest opinion" don't even let it get to you. You should know your self-worth or surround yourself with people who know just how important you are, people who have accepted you for who you are and whatever imperfections you may have. From crooked teeth to excess body weight to stubby toes, either way its

part of your body and part of YOU.

It's not easy being positive about yourself all the time, trust me I know but I've learnt that your peers' negative judgment about who you are and what your soul reflects is their opinion only and if they don't matter to you then their opinion shouldn't either. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and do something about it. Pick yourself up, lift your chin and walk like you have no problems at all because it feels great!

Being a teen is hard. We go through all these changes and experiences and it's pretty tough so here are 10 people I believe you don't need to deal with this year:

1. The people who make your life more stressful
2. The people who use you.
3. The people who don't respect you.
4. The people who always manage to hurt you and know it.
5. The people who cant seem to stop lying to you.
6. The people who smile to your face and then insult you behind your back.
7. The people who don't care about you but love to pretend they do.
8. The people who drag you back into your old lifestyle.
9. The people who hold you back and
10. The people just taking up space.

You don't need people slugging on you like an extra curricular activity, this year make it about you and your self-development. You're not worthless. You're worth it.

How to be successful in life

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The main Bible reference for this Article is II King 18v.1-8, and our character study is King Hezekiah of Judah who is a God fearing person. He desire to do what is right before God.

In Part 1 of this Article of Encouragement I stated that in order for us to be successful in life,

the first lesson is to TRUST GOD totally. Because the people have turned away from God, Hezekiah's mission was to redirect them back to God. This is a picture of the mission of Jesus Christ to this world, to bring us back to God and for us to have 'eternal life'. Hezekiah showed us that he has full confidence in God. We too should have confidence in God. Jesus said in Mark 10v.27 "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Psalm 2v.12 reads "Blessed are those who put their trust in Him."

Secondly, we need to be FAITHFUL to God. Psalm 31v.23 says "...for the Lord preserves the faithful.." Psalm 101v.6 says "My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land.." To illustrate God's attitude towards those who are faithful to Him, Jesus spoke the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25v.23 Jesus said "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." Jesus spoke the word faithful twice to indicate how important faithfulness is to God.

The third point is found in v.6 which reads "... but carefully kept all the commands that the Lord had given Moses." In spite of the many distractions surrounding him, King Hezekiah OBEYED

GOD'S COMMANDS. For us now-a-days there are so many distractions surrounding us. Micah 4v.5 reads "For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever."

Let us look at what God did for Hezekiah. Because Hezekiah TRUSTED GOD, and was FAITHFUL TO HIM, and also OBEYED HIS COMMANDS, the first part of v.7 reads "... the Lord was with him, and he was successful in everything he did..." King Hezekiah experienced God's blessings and he became a very successful person. v.5 says, that there was no other King in Judah like Hezekiah - before or after him.

Let us look at what Hezekiah did for God. Hezekiah separated himself from doing things not right in the sight of God. While others were doing what is not right, Hezekiah decided not to do what they're doing. This too ought to be our attitude. Psalm 1v.1 (GN) reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God."

Know that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (I John 4v.4) Hezekiah was successful in his life:

1. Because he put his TRUST IN GOD
2. Because he was FAITHFUL TO GOD
3. Because he OBEYED GOD'S COMMANDS

This is how to be successful in life and whatever-else we do. v.7 reads "...the Lord was with him, and he was successful in everything he did..." Friend, know that Nothing is impossible when we put our trust in God.

May God bless you – te Atua te aroa.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



Chooks Extra

The League season kicked off with more cancelled games than played and the hottest issue is the \$5 entry fee some clubs are charging, greedy or what? The Eels verses Panthers had more yellow cards than all last season, one Eel player collected three, then again he clobbered the Fijian who grabbed his testicles, the Panther is a serial offender, it's the same player who did that last year and got suspended by his own club. Looks like the Eel's mantra they make stars has been replaced with Talofa we welcome the Samoans. After spending thousands of bucks on poaching and recruiting players, Rental Affar must be pulling the rest of his hair out as he watched his Bulldogs get a thrashing by the new look Bears who recruited an ex All Black monster forward. Next week the Bears are going to demolish the visiting Sharks. The Doggies may have got the Samoa runners but the Eels have got the Samoa tacklers and we all know what wins games. After the Eagles and Warriors game the exuberant Captain MP was paying the victorious Eagle players none of them took any notice of the Coach's after game speech.



If you catch a drunk pissing in your front yard just ignore him and mind your own business. Don't be silly like the young man who took exception to one drunk doing just that. An argument developed and an altercation took place and the police were called to the incident by concerned witnesses as the sober gentleman was defending himself against two louts one a policeman's son. Police arrive and the three are taken to the station, the resident to give a statement. Shock of all shocks the sober householder gets charged for common assault and fighting in a public place and ends up in Court with the two drunken louts. Just let drunks piss where ever they like whenever they like, it's not their fault they are drunk it's a free world till you try and apprehend them even if it's happening on your own front lawn. Now if they did it in a bucket you provided and you mixed one part urine to ten parts of water you'll have an excellent organic fertilizer.



Looks like the wombat twins Bishop and Rassie have turned into a couple of space cadets. On Radio Matariki FM, Bishop claims Demo candidate for Vaipae/Tautu Kete Ioane is just having a good rest in hospital as if it is strategic to get some sympathy votes. On International Radio Rassie tells the world Kete's ailment is very minor just a very small corrective surgery, nothing serious or to

worry about. Talk about smudging the facts and giving false hope to the masses.



It's a fact money is in snort supply in the vast kingdom of Nenevanomics. While Neneva Neves has scored a reprieve for another month, MFEM economist James Webb has had his \$90,000 pay packet amputated by \$50,000. Now working three days a week JW has turned his hand to other means to put bread on the table.



Despite the historical significance of Constitution Park, what a better place to celebrate our 50th year of dependence, Sonny Williams and his Minister Bulldozer call me DPM Heta want to spend mega bucks building a domed stage at the Nation Stadium to host the 50 year Celebrations. Is this just a waste of taxpayer's money and will it just create contracts for Bulldozer's company T&M Heather Ltd? With the co-ordinator Nicki Henry chasing his tail he's becoming just as confused as his disorganised helpers. It's February and the vaka captain Henry Nick is yet to produce a programme because no one is interested. Culture Lord of the Rings Sonny Will is too busy trying to renovate or demolish structures at our Cultural Centre to make a conference centre before Tourism does theirs. Speaking about Sonny, why is it he gives his wife most if not all the Ministry of Culture's consultancy work, why aren't these opportunities advertised or is his wife the best qualified?



Why was such a tax funded fuss made over someone who has been absent from the Cook Islands for over 50 years? Entertainers like Jake Numanga have stayed and help create the country we have today but Willie Crummer gets treated like royalty yet what contribution has he made to the country by being absent? So much for those that have stayed home and sweated it out through the highs and lows for the last 50 years.



Whether we like him or not Lawyer come businessman and unequalled property developer Trevor Clarkie deserves some sort of award for reshaping the architectural landscape of Rarotonga. The interior layout quality of his businesses is superior and gives the visual impression one is in New Zealand. Word is he hasn't finished yet.

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World Radio Day 2015

Youth and Radio, is this year's specific theme to celebrate the World Radio Day 13 February 2015.

World Radio Day was proclaimed by the 36th UNESCO General Conference in November 2011 and adopted by the 67th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2012. It is celebrated by the entire United Nations system, its stakeholders and its partners.

World Radio Day is celebrated on the 13th of February every year in commemoration of the date when the United Nations Radio was launched in 1946.

This year's theme reflects the strong commitment and support of UNESCO to encourage the youth oriented and driven radio.

Radio often fails to present young people's voices and opinions on societal issues and offers them instead only music. Increased scheduling of thematic radio shows made by young people for young people is desirable.

The goal of World Radio Day is not only to celebrate radio as a medium, but also to improve international cooperation between radio broadcasting organisations.

World Radio Day should encourage public policy decision-makers and those involved in all forms of radio broadcasting to produce inclusive and diverse content, as well as provide access to information over the airwaves.

For more information on World Radio Day 2015, and if your Station would be interested to organize specific programmes on Youth and Radio, visit the following link: www.worldradioday.org.

Chooks asks, when will Internal Affairs issue pensioners with an IR 101 form to forward onto Inland Revenue?



Sounds like the Avatiu lot got cold feet as the politicking reached boiling point. Given the opportunity to rewrite political history the pressure burst the dam of hopes and dreams of possibilities. With the Vaipae/Tautu seat now comfortably in the CIP bag it will be business as usual, any thought of a snap election to break the deadlock will put an end to the debt ridden Demos misery for the next decade.



With this minimum wage review currently in progress, a chook squawks, who stands to benefit from a rise in the basic pay? The foreign workers of course! And don't forget their families overseas who are sent money each week! Fiji pays about 89 cents an hour minimum! In Samoa the minimum is about NZ\$1.50 per hour. In the Philippines you get whatever you are lucky to get! Here, the average Bar Manager hourly rate at most bars around the island is \$18.50 an hour and security/cleaners get \$12.50 an hour. Chook knows a hotel grounds man who is getting \$12.50 an hour and a \$4.00 lunch of his choice each day!



CITV's Koka programme has been seen recently on Sky TV in Europe and London. How great is that? Good promotion for the country. No thanks to Tourism Corp who consistently fail to sponsor the Koka programme.



Anyone out there been informed yet that the guardian of the purse for te Minita o te Moni, Tricky Dickie, has had his contract extended for one month? How does te Minita o te Moni fund this extra month? Simple! Just cut the pay of



all else in the section by reducing their working hours!



Oh dear chooks! Sir Filchard Peeves, keeper of the Royal Purse for Te Minita o Te Moni, does not know where his authority begins and ends! Now we hear he tried to stop a Minister's CEO from spending the support office money they were allocated. What's the reason? It's the Support Office budget! Next thing you know, he will be stipulating what colour underwear Support Office staff are to wear!



After 50 years of self government, what's there to celebrate? On a positive note government wants to highlight the achievements but there have been so few. Perhaps we should be highlighting the botch-ups (and there have been so many) because then we may not repeat them! There was the financial crisis in the 1970s when the Kiwis had to bail us out. Then the fly-in voter controversy. The collapse of our citrus industry. Then the great Sheraton Hotel debacle and the missing millions. Then the second major financial crisis in 1996/7 which resulted in some 5,000 packing and leaving for Kiwiland after the public service shed half its staff. There was the "Letters of Guarantee" shemozzle. Then there was our

involvement in the "Wine-Box" affair. Then the "black listing" of our Off-Shore Banking sector. The failure of several major projects, among them the great reservoir project which turned to mud. There was the 15 year waste management project in Arorangi which lasted just 5 years. Then there was the great Immigration botch-up over Shabalala, the African con man we could not get rid of. He even joined a local cultural group then left of his own accord. Perhaps he got bored. Now we have another imminent disaster with Te Mato Vai.



Interesting to see the NZBC TV Current Affairs programme "Inquiry" on our goggle box recently and the Short Guru saying how some businesses had gone belly up and the owners fled overseas because government had not paid their bills. Why is it no surprise that we are seeing the same thing happening today? Also interesting to see adamant Albert predicting that 2 years after the airport opened, Cookies would be flocking back home! "Mark my words!" said Albert. They certainly are coming home! Home in a box! And still coming!



Word that the official excuse for the Chinese delegation not being at the

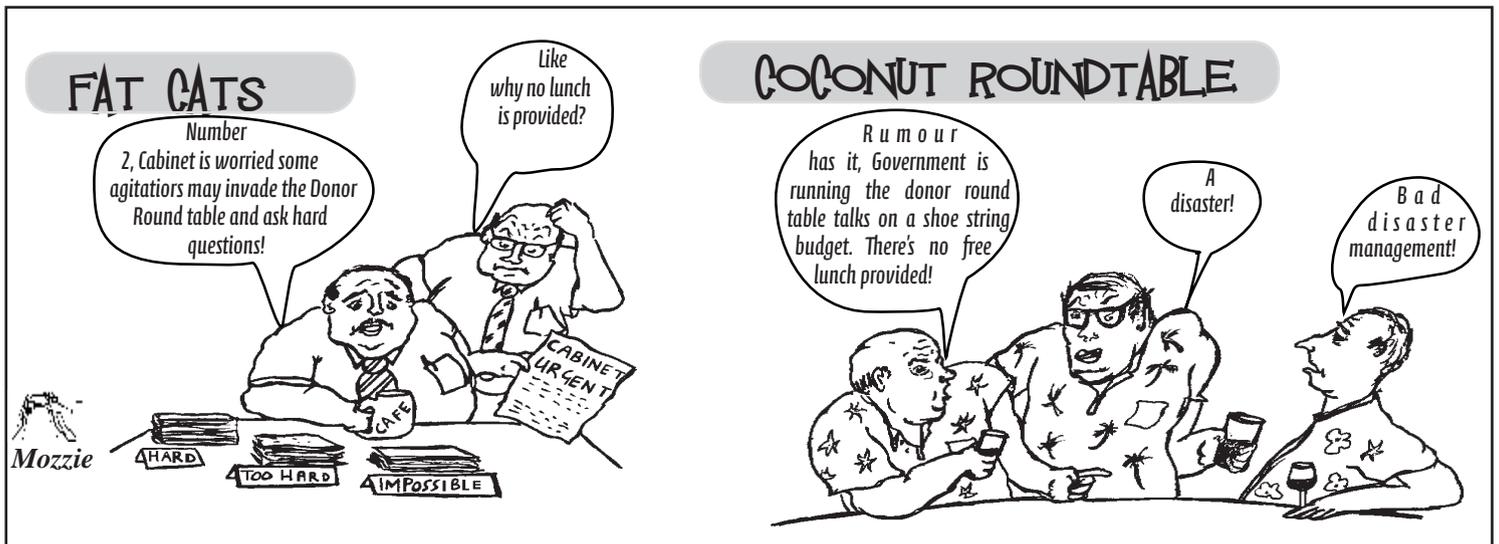
Donor Partners Roundtable pow wow because it is too close to the Chinese New Year, is pure piffle. Who dreamt up this weak, senseless quaffle? Tell the truth. The Chinese are probably upset at all the negative publicity surrounding Te Mato Vai project quality of work and differences of opinion with Nottingham Neves over costs. Maybe they are upset at Officialdom's failure to shield them from the onslaught of accusations of poor workmanship and dictatorial, iron rod attitude. The Chinese aside, why any of the Donor Partners would want to attend this questionable Round Table gas bagging is a mystery. It's a weak excuse for government to spend more tax payer dollars on entertainment, drinks, food and more drinks. This addiction to partying at the drop of a hat for any reason at all must be treated. Just because a bunch of Donors are silly enough to risk their money in this place, is no excuse to waste money on a slap up party.



Was anyone told that the so called "Virtues" thingee stems from the Bahai Faith? It seems to be everywhere now. So what about adopting other, wise, sayings from the pages of history? Like the sayings of "Confucius?" The thoughts of "Chairman Mao?" "The Book of Proverbs?"



A local chook reports a group of immigrants going around buildings selling \$10 containers of food. Is this on their work permits? Has Immigration done any checks? If not why not? Surely someone in that agency has the job of doing spot checks on all work permit holders on a regular basis to see if they are following the terms of their permit? These people are probably selling food in government buildings!



Development Awards presented

The presentations were made before a large crowd at the Enea Manea Hall, Titikaveka on Tuesday evening.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Taira Rere

Sir Thomas Davis KBE

Mana Strickland

CI National Council of Women

The five decade awards went to:

1965-74 – Albert Henry

1975-84 – Tekake William

1985-94 – Pa Enea Air Transport Development (Ewan Smith and George Cowan being the key do-ers)

1995-04 – Te Ipukarea Society

2005-14 – awarded to two organisations – CI Red Cross (who had been nominated in the name of Niki Rattle/Red Cross) and Te Kainga O Pa Taunga.

The Judges decided that no Supreme Award or People’s Choice Award be made.



1960s Island Style - Best Dressed according to theme



Daphne Brown
10/10



Richard Neves
10/10



Shona Lynch
10/10

TENDER



SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ATIU CRUSHER PLANT CONTRACT NO. C15/01

Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) on behalf of Atiu Island Government seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the Supply and Installation of Atiu Crusher Plant, Cook Islands.

A copy of the Tender Document including specifications can be collected during work hours from ICI office in Arorangi. A non-refundable deposit of NZ\$200 will be required before the tender document is issued.

Tenders close at 3pm on Monday, 16th February 2015, and must be submitted to the ICI Office in Arorangi and in accordance with the specific requirements of the Tender Document. Tenders must be submitted in hard copy format in two (2) separate envelopes marked accordingly, Envelope 1 or 2, labelled "CONFIDENTIAL" and addressed to:

The Secretary Infrastructure Cook Islands Arorangi
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

and subsequent markings below to include the following:
Tenderers name and address, contact person and details;
Contract number and title; and Closing time and date.

All Enquiries to be directed to: Solomona Solomona
Contact Officer

Email: solomona.solomona@ici.gov.ck

Phone: +682 20321

VACANCIES



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
TE MARAE ORA IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR
THE POSITION OF:**

Director Community Health Services

This position leads the development and delivery of all community health services for the Ministry of Health.

Public Health postgraduate qualifications are essential with experience in project management, public health administration and an advanced knowledge of international health issues.

A medical background is an advantage.

This position reports directly to the Head of Ministry. To discuss any of these roles please contact Mrs. Elizabeth Iro, Secretary of Health or the Human Resources Manager Ms Temarama Anguna.

An application form with a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV), including original or authenticated copies of qualifications, should be addressed to Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 109, Ministry of Health, Rarotonga.

For a copy of the job description email: m.anguna@health.gov.ck or phone: 29-664

Applications close 17 February 2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

Are you seeking foreign investors for your business?

Contact us today and register your interest. We will promote your interest in Auckland, Sydney, China and Geneva through the Pacific Islands Trade & Invest offices. Call Ria Arthur on 24296 or email btib@cookislands.gov.ck

Registrations close 12pm Friday 13th February 2015.

VACANCY



**VACANCY – SENIOR INSPECTOR –
EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has a vacancy for the position of Senior Inspector – Employment Relations within the Labour and Employment Relations Office.

If you are interested in the position, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Eva Mapu, email employment@cookislands.gov.ck or phone 29370.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. Applications close Monday, 23 February 2015 at 9am.

Cook Islands Jobs

The Cook Island's premier Jobs Website
www.cookislandsjobs.com

This week's top vacancies available on Cook Islands Jobs as at 10/02/15

- **Demi Chef – Edgewater Resort (Rarotonga)**
- **Store Manager – idCK (Rarotonga)**
- **Compliance Officer- Bank of the Cook Islands (Rarotonga)**
- **Housemaid – Edgewater (Rarotonga)**

To view full job descriptions and to apply for any of these roles, please visit www.cookislandsjobs.com today.

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Côte d'Ivoire crowned kings of Africa

Goalkeeper Boubacar Barry scored the decisive goal as Côte d'Ivoire ended a 23-year CAF Africa Cup of Nations title drought by winning 9-8 on penalties after the final ended 0-0 following extra time.

History repeated itself as the only other Ivorian title came in 1992 when they edged the Ghanaians, also on penalties after a goalless draw. It was a highly tactical and cagey climax to the biennial African football showpiece in Equatorial Guinea city Bata. Billed as a 'dream' final between the West African neighbours, it became the fourth decider in the last eight to finish goalless and be settled by spot-kicks.

Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana made one change each from the teams that started in convincing semi-final victories over Congo DR and Equatorial Guinea respectively. Ghana captain and star striker Asamoah Gyan passed a late fitness test on his injured hip and returned in place of semi-final scorer Jordan Ayew, a son of Black Stars legend Abedi 'Pele' Ayew. Côte d'Ivoire switched goalkeepers with fit-again veteran Boubacar Barry recalled and Sylvain Gbohouo dropping to the bench after five consecutive appearances.

Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang, FIFA President Blatter and CAF President Issa Hayatou were introduced to the teams before the national anthems. The pre-kick-off mood was extremely jovial with rival players warmly greeting each other as they went through the traditional shaking of hands.

Quicksilver Côte d'Ivoire winger Gervinho appeared particularly relaxed and threatened twice in the early stages as Ivory Coast were quicker out of the blocks. However, Ghana comfortably

dealt with both threats and when African Footballer of the Year Yaya Toure had a free-kick opportunity outside the box on 14 minutes, he shot tamely at Razak Braimah. Almost immediately, Ivorian midfielder enforcer Serey Die was yellow-carded for a studs-up foul on Mubarak Wakaso.

Sloppy Ghanaian passing close to their goalmouth offered Gervinho a chance to present Max-Alain Gradel with a sight of goal, but his powerful shot finished well off target. After soaking up the early pressure, Ghana adopted a more adventurous approach and came tantalisingly close to taking the lead on 25 minutes through Christian Atsu. The pacey winger won possession just outside the box and his swerving shot eluded the diving Barry only to rebound to safety off the post. Côte d'Ivoire were rescued by the woodwork again nine minutes before half-time when Andre Ayew -- an elder brother of Jordan -- hit the other post from an acute angle. The opening half finished goalless with Ghana enjoying 55 per cent possession and feeling positive having come closer to scoring than Côte d'Ivoire.

An early second-half run by Atsu offered Gyan a half-chance, but the talismanic figure did not come close to troubling Barry with a disappointing off-target effort. Another Ivorian was yellow carded before the hour with Siaka Tiene joining fellow midfielder Die in the book for pulling back Atsu. As the game reached the three-quarter mark, Côte d'Ivoire made the first change with recent Roma signing Seydou Doumbia coming off the bench to replace the ineffective Gradel.

While there were moments of anxiety for both defences,



clearcut chances remained elusive and the game predictably drifted into extra time. Ghana finally made a substitution on 99 minutes with Jordan Ayew, whose penalty goal set up the semi-final rout over Equatorial Guinea, taking the place of

Kwesi Appiah.

The pattern of half-chances continued in extra time, but despite the presence of star African strikers like Gyan and Ivorian Wilfried Bony, the scoreboard operator remained unemployed until the shootout.

Football: NZ get favourable draw at U-20 World Cup

It wasn't quite a dream World Cup draw for the New Zealand Under-20 football side, but it was pretty close.

New Zealand were grouped with Ukraine, USA and Myanmar in a glitzy ceremony at Sky City's Convention centre last night, and the hosts will fancy their chances of progressing through the group stages when the tournament kicks off in May.

New Zealand were seeded into group play along with Mexico, Argentina, Qatar, Germany and the yet to be known African champions, and managed to avoid footballing heavyweights Argentina, Colombia and Brazil.

New Zealand coach Darren Bazeley was thrilled with the outcome of the draw.

"Is it possible to progress from this group? Yes of course it's possible," said Bazeley. "Is it going to be hard, yes, but I believe we are good enough to make this happen."

The tournament opener will pit New Zealand against Ukraine in Auckland on May 30, before 52 matches take place across seven cities over three weeks.

The tournament is expected

to reach 170 million television viewers across 100 countries and FIFA are hoping for 500,000 fans to pass through the gates over the course of the tournament.

Group D looks to be the toughest with Concacaf champions Mexico, perennial South American powerhouses Uruguay, Serbia and the second ranked African side.

The African qualification tournament starts next month and the draw will be completed on March 22nd following the tournament.

Ukraine were one of six teams to qualify through Europe while Myanmar emerged as the surprise package of the Asian qualifiers and the USA are making their 13th appearance in the finals of the U-20 World Cup competition.

Bazeley said, "It's going to be a massive event. Once we get past the Cricket World Cup I think it will capture the nation's imagination."

One of the key game days will be when New Zealand travel to Wellington to play their third game and the warm up match will feature Argentina.

- By Steven Holloway