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Politics, business and religious factions pushing PM into corner

Aitutaki's religious lobby group have the upper hand on banning Ewan Smith's Air Rarotonga's Sunday flights to Aitutaki but the Island's business owners are making a late run to pressure Prime Minister Henry Puna into ignoring the results of the 22 April 2015 Referendum and break his promise that a simple majority against the Sunday flights would be sufficient to terminate them.

Driven by Tourist Accommodator One Cook Islands Movement leader Teina Bishop and his brother in law Alan Mills the Aitutaki Business Association Chairman are forecasting an exaggerated cacophony of an economic Armageddon. To have the ghoulish to guestimate Aitutaki could lose 150 jobs and that 500 people would be forced to abandon the Island plus a loss of \$60 million dollars to the Cook Islands economy on top of a \$10 million subsidy lost business revenue is ludicrous.

The loss physiological play on emotions directed at Puna and Aitutaki is political manipulation of the worst kind, if the economic assessment is accurate; tell us Bishop how many of the 150 lost jobs are held by foreign workers in the Resorts? How many of them are part of the 500 you claim will be forced to leave?

Why weren't Smith and Bishop proactive and warn the voters of Aitutaki of these horrendous consequences of banning Sunday flights to their Island? To make these outrages claims the entire economy of the Cook Islands is dependent on a couple of Sunday flights is a desperate



Aitutaki Sunday Flights

attempt of scare mongering hysteria by Bishop who prior to the Referendum was spouting off to his Rarotonga business

Puna made sure it was and in the heart land of anti Sunday flights it secured him another seat for the Cook Islands Party.

The people of Aitutaki have democratically had their say and the majority of those who voted want the flights stopped.

associates and friends nothing was going to change. Well whatever Bishop claimed he had under control was a fabrication of the illusions of political grandeur that lurked in his mind.

While Bishop claims this is not a political issue it is, Henry

The Prime Minister promised Aitutaki would get a Referendum on the Sunday flights and was heralded for it and unlike the defaulting former Deputy Prime Minister Sir Terepai Maoate, Puna delivered immediately.

The people of Aitutaki have

democratically had their say and the majority of those who voted want the flights stopped. A majority was all he needed Puna had campaigned. Like his repetitive promises to the Grey Power protesters, any loss of concentration by Puna could carelessly entangle him in a web of dithering indecision of his own making.

It is the loose lipped showman Bishop who has lost face and failed to deliver for his Rarotonga friends who have bank rolled his botched up political transition, for years they have depended upon him being a Minister of the Crown. Without the political positional power he has wielded for so long Bishop's sphere of influence in Aitutaki has all but dissipated.

Bishop is resorting to the same

Continued next page

strategy of fear as the religious protesters who before the Vaipae/Tautu by election and after it deployed plenty of fear mongering and harsh judgments from the hand of God, curses of death and destruction from inclement weather.

While Smith and his cronies undermine the Referendum results based on voting numbers, understanding Aitutaki's religious factions only amplifies and endorses the result with greater clarity that should not be ignored by the political masters.

The result does not indicate more of the non voters would have supported the continuation of Sunday flights; this is a three way arm wrestle between the political opportunists, the business owners and the religious protesters. Right now the winners are the Church folk and the rest are using every underarm ball to get the umpire Puna to declare a no contest. The religious faction were first past the post with a margin that is non negotiable.

Taken out of the hands of the politicians, the democratic process has delivered a result that has irked a few of Bishop's friends and they expect economic fear mongering will sway Puna to break his promise to the people of Aitutaki.

Aitutaki is proud to remind the rest of the Cook Islands they were the first to accept the Gospel. The Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA) are a dominant group on Aitutaki with at least 200 adult members with two well attended Churches on the Government administration and business belt of the Island where 98% of tourist activity is centred. (At one time all three Aitutaki Members of Parliament were prominent SDA members.) In this demographic that polled sparingly, one has to understand for SDA members the Sunday flights are a non issue therefore they are unlikely to bother voting one way or the other.

The lack of participation by the SDA members is their assurance to the CICC they would not vote for a continuance therefore potentially adding numbers to the anti Sunday flight polled numbers.

On the Vaipae and Tautu (Vaitau) side of Aitutaki the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) is dominant with Churches in both

villages barely a kilometre apart. It is from these two Churches that the anti Sunday flights hard line protesting was hatched and fuelled with religious fervour. The Referendum voting break down clearly reveals the Vaitau area turned out in force to vote against the Sunday flights.

Whether Ewan Smith's analysis of the breakdown of the voting demographic results is a manifestation of his ignorance of Aitutaki's religious factions or an attempt to mislead the public is a matter of opinion. While Smith can rationale and creatively juggle the figures all he likes it doesn't change the fact what SDA member would be inconvenienced or bothered to vote on an issue that simply meant nothing or very little to them? Either way the result has no bearing on them first religiously or otherwise.

As far as the religious faction is concerned they can live without the economic development but they can't live without their God. To them the Sunday flights are about choosing money or God and they fully expect Puna to honour his byelection campaign promise in full. Pushed into a corner Puna must now demonstrate decisive leadership and declare the people have spoken and end the Sunday flights. It's called democracy.

From a political perspective, no amount of fear mongering pressure from any faction least of all from Bishop's faceless parasitic friends will force Puna to make any decision on the Sunday flights until there is closure on Mona Ioane's police investigation into bribery. If Puna reneges on his promise to Vaitau and Mona is charged and found guilty a byelection will not return a replacement CIP candidate.

With Bishop's police investigation into corruption still ongoing, the conclusion could see the end of Bishop's political career which could give the PM an additional constituency option to stand for in the next general election.

As for the number of voters who would turn against the CIP at the next elections if he ignored the business owners and terminated the Sunday flights, Puna is conscious they will not be able to influence the polling result one way or another.

- George Pitt



Teina Bishop



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FinSec Neves challenges anti bribery lobby with mutant excuses and spin

*After reading a recent CI News front page story I took the view that the FINSEC could have been referring to the anti-bribery lobby group and not the anti - purse seine fishing group and with some subtle changes the front page story could have read a little closer to the truth about what has alleged to happen on fishing license negotiations. **George Pitt***

At the best of times in matters of sovereign fiscal responsibility, the exorbitantly paid (\$330,000) Richard Neves falls several notches short of being competent, his master plan Nenevanomics is a monumental disaster that has plunged the Cook Islands into hideous crippling debt plus unmeasured resource obligation to the Peoples Republic of Chain and triggered an unprecedented multi-pronged social unrest by galvanised victims and protesters.

In matters where Neves is a foreign enterprise, he is so because he has no expertise or experience, in Marine Resources, Neves may as well be an alien talking nonsensical gibberish. The instant gratification Nenevanomics is a fickle one basket high risk model rooted in a primal drive of crash, grab and carry, Neves is a raider, a present tense hand bag snatcher void of any sense of the consequences for the next day let alone a year down the track.

Neves forced economy diversification is targeting our marine resources not by planned intent but opportunistically riding on Marine Resources Secretary Ben Ponia's valiant efforts which are reaping dividends from his strategic vision. Plagued with dismal failure, Neves is a poor performing official who doubles up as a frantic busy body who likes to muscle in on other's success in the hope some of the glory will attributed to him and become an entry in his fabricated CV.

On the subject of fishing a critical Reuben Tyler said, "Government wants to earn quick cash from this resource to support their spending, but don't want to make the investment back into administering,



Financial Secretary Richard Neves

monitoring and regulating the industry to ensure its survival."

Neves is stale, seriously lacking the fiscal intellect or depth to build a sustainable multi pronged economy because

politicians Neves has got away with so much off the cuff failure resulting decisions because he's been propped up by the lazy incompetent Solicitor General Kim Saunders.

Neves has a habit of cross referencing to mask his incompetence, in response to some of his misleading or maybe ignorant comments, in the context of purse seining Reuben Tyler says, " Government's spending habits and Financial Secretary Richard Neves' ability to balance the budget, have no relevance whatsoever to the issue."

he's in such a mess, he's like the Aussie wombat, he lives for the day, his condition in his line of work is called economist's failure fatigue syndrome (EFFS). Under the noses of the gullible

Neves has a habit of cross referencing to mask his incompetence, in response to some of his misleading or maybe ignorant comments, in the context of purse seining Reuben

Tyler says, " Government's spending habits and Financial Secretary Richard Neves' ability to balance the budget, have no relevance whatsoever to the issue."

The fishing arena is uncharted territory for Neves and every time he opens his mouth and makes public comment it adds weight to Tyler's opinion.

Under persistent pressure from protesters even the Prime Minister Henry Puna has publically pointed his finger of blame at Neves. Well deprived of testicle fortitude Puna was careful to craft his criticism of Neves in the Maori language to fudge his annoyance at the political fallout and grief Neves was causing the CIP government.

Banning bribery in Cook Islands politics would deprive the Cook Islands Government of much needed revenue, according to the Financial Secretary Richard Neves.

In a letter to the CI News editor on 7 May 2015, Neves stated that the passionate debate around corruption in the Cooks must be an informed one. "The current call to ban bribery is of limited value," he adds that such a ban would deprive politicians of much needed revenue that he says is currently being directed to the local residential communities. Ultimately he says the loss of revenue would make it more difficult to meet the needs of the most greedy and irresponsible in the country.

In response to Neves' spin doctoring Mata-Atua McNair asked, "How then did he manage before?" She further suggests, "Neves should concentrate on cutting this government's profligate spending than promoting unsustainable fishing methods to satisfy existing runaway and often corrupt
continued next page

Wenwei apologises to Don Carlaw

By Charles Pitt

Wenwei Yang, the Chinese woman who formed a romantic attachment last year to local businessman Don Carlaw with a view to marriage, and who attacked his character via postings on Facebook when the relationship failed, has now apologized to Carlaw for her actions.

Wenwei and her young son Jun arrived in Rarotonga with Carlaw on 10 May 2014. She and Jun returned to China in April 2015 after the relationship broke down.

Speaking to the Herald on Tuesday, Carlaw said Wenwei, who had travelled from her home in Shanghai to meet him, apologized to him on 17 April 2015 at his hotel when he visited China to attend a trade show in Guangzhou. Carlaw said the meeting was friendly and he bore her no ill will. He said he felt sorry for her.

For Carlaw the meeting and apology has brought some closure to what has been a very stressful period during which he endured allegations and accusations by Wenwei on a personal level and later through Wenwei's postings on Facebook which resulted in him personally being on the end of much abuse and threats. Carlaw said people had readily accepted Wenwei's version of their relationship without hearing both sides of the story. He said it showed a dangerous side to the internet and what he endured was nothing short of cyber bullying.

Carlaw said both Wenwei and her son had their good points and they all got on very well for most of the time. Their departure from Rarotonga was not easy for him. He said Wenwei played badminton at the TSA and they all went to the Gym most nights. They had travelled overseas to China, Thailand and twice to NZ.

Carlaw and Wenwei met through an international match making network on the internet and on 26 March 2014, Carlaw travelled to Shanghai China and met Wenwei and her young son Jun.

Carlaw spent a month in China with her and on 23 April 2014 he returned to Rarotonga. On 8 May 2014, Wenwei and her son travelled to Auckland and met Carlaw. On 10 May 2014, they travelled to Rarotonga.

Unfortunately the relationship did not blossom and on 10 April 2015, Wenwei went public on Facebook leveling allegations and accusations against Carlaw citing instances of bad moods, threats, looking at other women, not allowing her out, not wanting to go through with their planned marriage, swearing, physical assault, not allowing her to use the phone or contact her family.

Carlaw told the Herald his

attempts to put his side of the story have been difficult. Carlaw said Wenwei was extremely jealous and very possessive. Three times he had to call Police to calm her down after she lost control.

Carlaw said the final break in their relationship came when he was due to leave for the trade show in Guangzhou, China. He had told Wenwei he could not afford to pay for her fare however she refused to accept this and turned up at the airport with her bags packed. Carlaw decided to allow her to travel as far as Auckland where they would sort something out. However Wenwei became unpleasant aboard the plane the result being both she and Carlaw were not permitted to travel. Carlaw said he flew out the next morning and he contacted Wenwei a day later to tell her the relationship was over. Soon after this, she posted her comments on Facebook.

FinSec Neves challenges anti bribery lobby with mutant excuses and spin

From page 4
expenditure."

McNair chastises Neves and offers more practical advice on prudence, "Whether it's the airline flight subsidies budgeted at \$12 million or the Prime Minister's endless expensive charter flights to Manihiki, or the fleets of new public service pickup trucks circling the island daily, useless travel to useless meetings, corrupt contracting or the dozens of other ways in which money is wasted."

She says the glaring obvious revenue alternative is cost cutting because at current levels government spending is scandalous and unsustainable.

In his comments, Neves maintains that for an informed

debate, some explanation should be provided as to what an alternative source of revenue would be if bribery is banned.

Neves shares some possible scenarios in his letter about how the revenue could be recovered. Countries who bribe us now need to take a consistent approach which is in their collective best interests which is about ensuring maximising the overall price they pay for their privileges and that the bribery effort is soundly based on greed, shared out among those in power, he says.

After thirty years of the manganese sea bed mining fantasy talk Neves has no option but to acknowledge the folly of any foreseeable harvest, he said in a sanitised presentation

at a Development Financing Conference on 29 April 2015 in Indonesia, "Another aspect is seabed mining – but this is still an industry which can be best described as embryonic, we have looked at the possibility of establishing a sovereign wealth fund, but personally I am not banking on revenues coming any time soon."

With limited revenue streams and a shrinking tax base the Cook Islands still has to contribute our \$22 million share to the \$60 million Te Mato Vai project and with no clearly defined debt management plan Neves will be long gone when his legacy of failure and fiscal disaster becomes set in concrete.

In a melting economy for

Neves to confirm our \$22 million will be sourced from our Budget must be taken as babble and the mutterings of a confused soul, Neves cannot conjure up funds from his box of magic tricks to rebuild the Apii Nikao pipe dream so from where is he going to squeeze \$22 million even if over a period of five years?

I rather suspect though that the FINSEC is quite aware of what is required and those facts are staring us all in the face, but blinded by power and greed the FINSEC's masters would never entertain the obvious, after all, in the opinion of Neve's minister Mark Brown, everything is ticking along fine. Time bombs tick too.

- George Pitt

Our Frontpage model



Our front-page model for Herald Issue 766 is Alanna Smith
Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook
page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Letter to the Editor

Aitutaki Sunday flights

Dear Editor,

Re: Aitutaki Sunday flights

I write to place my total and absolute support to the people of Aitutaki who voted to stop Sunday flights. Some hard, cold facts need spelling out.

The Democratic Party Government through the then DPM Sir Terepai Maoate in 2008 met with the people of Aitutaki and promised them to allow a 6 months trial period to take place before putting the matter to a referendum. It was a promise which was sadly not honoured. The Democratic Party owes the people of Aitutaki an apology and if they ever wish to win seats in the future, support the legislation to ban Sunday flights.

The CIP made a clear unqualified promise to the people of Tautu Vaipae to hold a referendum on the Sunday flights issue if they elected the CIP candidate Moana Ioane.

Ioane was duly elected, the referendum was held, and the people of Aitutaki by a clear majority disapproved of the Sunday flights.

Then a new word was added after the referendum was held, by PM Puna, "NON BINDING." That word was not used during the by election, and not on the referendum documents either.

Clearly PM Puna is looking for an emergency escape exit! All referendums are meant to be effective and binding. My word of warning to the CIP Leader, "ignore the referendum at your peril."

If MP Moana Ioane is worthy of his reputation, he must place his future on the line, he should demand his CIP Government to legislate to stop Sunday flights, following a sensible scaling down period, or resign from the CIP.

The scare mongering by the business sector in Aitutaki shows the lack of respect they have for the proud people of Araura enua and their general contempt for our Christian beliefs and culture. The influential minority of native Aitutakians who support Sunday flights are already well soaked in Air Rarotonga free flight privileges- they deserve contempt and vilification.

Yours in support to stop Sunday flights,

Norman George

eat less
move more



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NEW STOCK ARRIVING SOON

Water tank programme successful but time running out

The water tank subsidy is proving highly successful getting close to its target of 2000 customers and providing nearly 10-million litres of water storage.

Close to 17-hundred homes or organisations have taken up the offer of a government subsidised water tank and pump system on Rarotonga. More than 15-hundred have been installed, with a further 160 or so still to be processed.

But there could be another couple of hundred who are eligible but have not yet signed up.

Teokotai Noopii from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, who administers the scheme, says the programme was based on an anticipated 2000 homes, and the idea was to provide about nine and a half million litres of water storage for consumers for times when water is short.

The scheme was due to finish at the end of this month; now it will shut down for a month, but the Cook Islands cabinet has given approval for it to re-open and run through until the end of the year.

The first contracts for the programme were signed on 28 May 2013.

One of the first to sign up that day was Itio Daniels who lives in the Takuvaine Valley. Itio spent 30 years living in Wellington and came back home about three years ago. He immediately saw the value of having a reliable water system; and he thinks the water tank project is good even though he hasn't had much cause to draw on his storage, because the water supply in the valley is so good.

He has the ideal system with his tank being fed from the piped supply, and he also catches rain off his roof.

He says that the new system gives he and his family security of supply, which of course is the whole idea.

Taamaru Brown also signed up that day and two years on he's very grateful for his new

water supply. Before the tank was installed he had endless problems sometimes going for three weeks without water.

He lives in Takuvaine with his wife and three daughters, and is on an elevated section.

"We used to have to go to other family members homes for a shower and I was always carting water in twenty litre bottles."

He's become a champion for the scheme.

"I've encouraged many people to sign up and get a tank; before we got our tank and the pipes were fixed round here, we were always having problems which made it difficult with washing and cooking."

"Now we have flexibility. We use the piped water when it's running, and we have our tank to draw on when it's dry."

And just a reminder although the project will pause at the end of this month, it'll open again at the end of June and anyone who hasn't already done so, and is eligible, can apply for a 6,000-litre water tank and a pressure pump at a subsidised rate for their home.



Itio Daniels - back in paradise in Takuvaine Valley.



Caught on Camera: Sam Crocombe at the Runway cycle event on Tuesday. More photos page 10

The Cook Islands approach explained

Presentation by Secretary of Finance Richard Neves to UNESCAP - Financing for Development Jakarta 29 April 2015

I would like to thank UNESCAP and the Indonesian Ministry of Finance for organising the meeting and the opportunity to present to the wide range of delegates here today.

I would like to ask you all to consider the geography of the Pacific Ocean. As we see here today we often see a view of the globe which provides us with the familiar continental landmarks like the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa.

But view it from our perspective when there is a point when the sun is directly over the equator and the Earth rotates to a position where only the Pacific Ocean is lit up. Someone peering into a telescope on another planet will only see Micronesia, some parts of Melanesia and Polynesia. It is a unique view of our blue planet, and in viewing that picture you begin to contextualise the issues of remoteness and size which face the countries of the Pacific.

Countries in the Pacific are often referred to as small islands states, but in fact we also see ourselves as large ocean states (LOS) the guardians of the Pacific and her resources. The Cook Islands - where I live, has 15 islands with a total land area of 260 square km scattered amongst 2.2 million square km in the Pacific, the main island being Rarotonga.

The Pacific Island countries face what appear to be significant and almost insurmountable multifaceted infrastructure challenges.

THE CONTINUED CHALLENGES OF INVESTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The continued challenge to invest in appropriate infrastructure which will improve economic productivity and genuinely contribute



towards improving the livelihoods of people requires resources, capital, technical and entrepreneurial – many of which are lacking in the Pacific.

OUR APPROACH IN THE COOK ISLANDS

As we focus on the possibility that we will be categorised as a middle income country making the ODA equation harder for us; our immediate response in the Cook Islands has been fivefold:

- Maximising our own source revenue whilst ensuring the economy is not burdened and that we manage our natural marine resources sustainably;
- Implementing robust public sector debt processes to manage public sector debt and provide some space in the future;
- improve our own planning and budgeting processes and systems to incorporate all sources of “public funding”;
- better coordinate the

efforts of our development partners to ensure they are country led; and

- attempt to access new modalities of funding particularly in the climate change space.

MAXIMISING OWN SOURCE REVENUE

We would all like to be self-sufficient, unfortunately like many other PIC's our economic base is narrow, our industrial base is small and as a result our tax base is also narrow. There are some resource richer such as Timor-Leste PNG who have some scope to broaden their economic prospects.

In our particular case tourism is our comparative advantage and accounts for around 60 per cent of GDP, and more increasingly fishing revenues as we integrate ourselves into the regional fishery.

In some cases in the Pacific fishing revenues make up a large portion of own sourced revenue, Tuvalu and Kiribati

come immediately to mind. That is limited with a fishery where some of the species are under stress, and therefore require careful management on a regional basis.

Another aspect is seabed mining – but this is still an industry which can be best described as embryonic, however the Cook Islands and Tonga have implemented fiscal and licencing regimes. We have looked at the possibility of establishing a sovereign wealth fund, but personally I am not banking on revenues coming any time soon.

There is limited capacity to extract further money for the infrastructure needs as much of this revenue base is going into services such as education, health and welfare.

INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

So the focus on capital development needs to be on development partner money, whether is through traditional ODA channels or climate change financing.

The Cook Islands has seen the importance of an integrated approach and has fundamentally changed the approach on the management of monies for capital development. The investment in infrastructure is now an ongoing part of the budget process, outlining a four year plan overseen by an infrastructure committee consisting of representative from the Ministry of Finance, the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) which oversees the SOE's, the Ministry of Infrastructure to continue overseeing the plan and progress. The committee oversees capital regardless of which source of funding it comes from whether it be an

Continued back page of Insert

Airport runway cycle attracts over 200

Over 200 cyclists of all ages turned up at the International Airport runway on Tuesday morning to make a historic first cycle on the runway as part of the build up to the 50th celebration of self government.

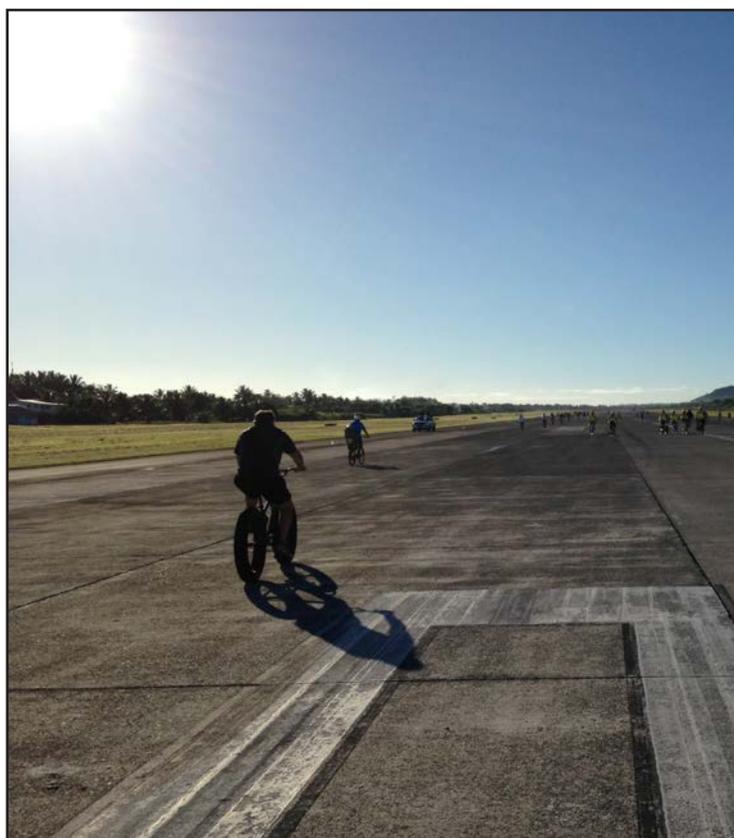
The distance to the end of the runway and

back is 4.5km and one hour was allotted for the event which got underway around 8.30am. Those who took part in the social race completed the distance in about 20 minutes.

Riders assembled at Gate Bravo at the

end of the runway closest to Panama Rd, mountain side for the safety briefing.

It is the second event in the 50 days for 50 years cycling campaign.



TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRIDAY 8th MAY 2015



Pictured here 6/5/15 amongst Apii'anga at the unveiling of the information board on Takamoa, NZHC Nick Hurley.

The guests and subjects of discussion on Te Kave Korero (TKK) programme on Radio Cook Islands on Friday 8th May 2015 were interesting for a number of reasons.

Firstly, TKK's first guest on the programme was the newly appointed New Zealand High Commissioner to the Cook Islands, His Excellency, Mr Nick Hurley.

In his opening remarks, TKK presenter, Tony Hakaoro, welcomed Hurley "back home" to the Cook Islands.

In responding, Hurley said that, "my first overseas posting as part of nearly 40 years I spent with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Zealand, was with the Cook Islands back in the mid to late seventies".

Hurley arrived in the Cook Islands as a junior diplomat in 1975 and worked here until 1978.

His diplomatic postings over the past 40 years included three year terms in Brisbane, Italy, Fiji and Solomon Islands. Prior to coming to the Cook Islands, he was the New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa.

Hurley said that he is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Government and the people of the Cook Islands in the next three years.

Early this week Hurley accompanied representatives of the Cook Islands and New Zealand Governments travel north to officially open the New Zealand Aid funded solar projects in Penrhyn and Manihiki.

Representatives of the New Zealand Government includes the New Zealand

Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Murray McCully, Leader of the New Zealand First Party, the Honourable Winston Peters, Member of Parliament and former leader of the New Zealand Labour Party, the Honourable David Shearer.

Accompanying Prime Minister, Henry Puna, as representatives of the Cook Islands Government, were the Honourable Mark Brown, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Albert Nicholas Jnr, Minister of Internal Affairs.

The controversial 'purse seine' fishing was the main subject of debate following TKK's short interview of the New Zealand High Commissioner.

On one side of the discussion and supporting the issue of purse seine fishing licences was Financial Secretary, Richard Neves. In opposition, was the Te Ipukarea Society's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Kelvin Passfield.

In response to a question regarding a letter he wrote to the Cook Islands News about purse seining, Neves said, "we have a resource, which are our fish, which we share in common with other countries in the Pacific, and it's really about saying, how can we sustainably extract the income from that resource that we should be able to do, income that goes towards the delivery of public services such as education, health, roads etc".

"Let's go look at the purse seining petition, if the Government decided tomorrow, okay, we're not going ahead with purse seining, we're not going to catch the fish, what are the implications? Well the Cook Islands doesn't get that revenue and the fish still happily swim along wherever they swim along and then the Governments of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tokelau, will suddenly have a little bit of extra stock that they can play with, and they can essentially, we'll be signing over a cheque. So essentially stopping purse seining is a kin to writing out a cheque to the Governments of Tuvalu, Tokelau and Kiribati, saying, here it goes fellows, here is an extra two or three million dollars to put into your budget".

Neves added, "I think that what we're



Pictured here 24/4/15 protestors against purse seine fishing

trying to get here is an environmental balance and an economic balance".

TKK host, Tony Hakaoro, put the following to Kelvin Passfield.

"It seems to me that there may be some misunderstanding or some misrepresentation of the issue. It would appear to me that some people have supported the protest and supported your arguments but perhaps misunderstood the issue that you're not necessarily opposing purse seine fishing, but you're saying, if we allow purse seine fishing, if we give these licences, we should restrict the use of FADs, would that be a reasonable summary of the situation?"

Passfield responded with this.

"That's where we were at, a year ago, yes, we were asking for a restriction on the use of FADs but as I was saying, the fact is, we haven't got anywhere with that request, that negotiation with Government, and we know a lot of other people were after a full ban on purse seining in the country".

However he stated that unfortunately there is an economic cost on banning purse seining in the country "and that's not what we wanted in the first place".

Hakaoro stated that it was disappointing that supporters of the 'ban purse seining' protest did not take advantage of the TKK radio programme and did not contact the radio to express or reinforce their views on the issue.

However he hopes that Te Kave Korero will interview other Cook Islanders in due course as the purse seine fishing debate continues.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MONDAY 11th MAY 2015

Vaeruarangi Ariki, Teakura Teakura, one of the High Chiefs of Aitutaki and Puna Rakanui, Clerk of the Kaumaiti Nui, the House of Arikis of the Cook Islands were the guest speakers on Te Kave Korero (TKK) on Monday 11th May 2015.

Their participation as guest speakers came as a result of the decision of the Vaka Mataiapo of Vaeruarangi Ariki to strip the Ariki title off Teakura Teakura.

In an interview on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 6th May 2015, spokesperson for the Vaka Mataiapo, the Council of Advisors to the Ariki, Ben Nicholls, stated that the Vaka Mataiapo met in Aitutaki on Tuesday 5th May, and as a result, removed the Ariki title from Teakura Teakura.

On Te Kave Korero, Teakura stated that he was chosen by his Kopu Ariki, to inherit the title of Vaeruarangi Ariki and that only them, the Kopu Ariki or the chiefly family, can remove him from holding the title.

Speaking in Maori, he said that the Vaka Mataiapo had no right to remove him from holding the title. He added that the power to remove him lies within the Kopu Ariki, the Ariki's families.

"Ko te au mataiapo, kare o ratou tikaanga i te iki i te Ariki. Ko te reira rare, na te Kopu Ariki. Kare e, na te au Mataiapo mei a Ben ma rai. Kare okotai o ratou tikaanga i te kiriti i te taoanga o tetai ua atu ariki full stop".

The issue, in so far as Te Kave Korero was concerned, was, whether Vaeruarangi's Ui Mataiapo, had the power, the mana or jurisdiction, to make such decision, removing Teakura from holding or continuing to hold the title of Vaeruarangi Ariki.

When the issue was put to Puna Rakanui, he stated in Maori that he and the Kaumaiti Nui (Tou Travel Ariki) believe that the choice or decision selecting an Ariki is entirely up to the Kopu Ariki themselves. He does not suggest however that such a practice is suitable for Aitutaki.



Pictured outside Taputapuataea Palace 12/6/2008 - Vaeruarangi Teakura Ariki reads out the Ui Ariki Proclamation that seeks to take back the country's resources.

"...I roto i ta matou, i irinaki matou, ko te taoanga, na te Kopu Ariki te reira e iki, inara, Tony, kare au e karanga atu nei e, ko te akateretereanga teia e tau no Araura Enuua".

He further stated in Maori that the practice of selecting an Ariki differs from island to island and from district to district.

"Tuketuke te akanoonoanga i te ikianga i te taoanga i roto i te matakeinanga e rua ngauru ma a, i roto i to tatou Basileia, i teia ra, kare e aiteite ana".

Rakanui said there needs to be a standard practice so that the selection process in choosing an Ariki is the same throughout the country so that in times of disputes there is a resolution mechanism to address the dispute without going to Court.

He said that the Kaumaiti Nui has been working towards a standard procedure and to introduce it into law applicable not only to the Ui Ariki but also to the Ui Mataiapo,

Ui Rangatira and others concerned with Cook Islands traditional titles.

In relation to Vaeruarangi Ariki however Rakanui advised there is a request before the Queen's Representative requesting that Vaeruarangi's warrant as an Ariki be withdrawn.

On Easter Monday 2015 Vaeruarangi was reported to have made a public declaration saying that the Ui Arikis are the legitimate leaders of the Cook Islands and that they should govern the country.

According to Rakanui the Kaumaiti Nui has power to suspend an Ariki from the House of Ariki but absolutely no power to remove an Ariki's warrant.

Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said that it would be a sad day if the Vaeruarangi Ariki title is disputed before a Court of Law as it would mean that a papaa would ultimately make the decision in respect to a traditional Maori matter.

Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani

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

CODICIL

dated Fifth April 2015

to the

LETTERS PATENT

previously delivered to the Government of The Cook Islands, on the 10th April 2014.

Let the following be known. We the seven undersigned, acting legally in consort as quorum for, Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani now pledge to All People of The Cook Islands the intention of, Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani to now assume legitimate fiscal responsibility for all matters pertaining to laws, life, rights and assets deemed to be pertaining to The Cook Islands.

The inertia of the current Government of The Cook Islands has precipitated and made inevitable this imperative for change.

The Letters Patent referred to, the outstanding Invoices totalling **AUD\$765.61 Billion Australian Dollars**, and the impending international Credit Rating crisis thus leave no option but for this action to now be commenced.

As of tomorrow the Sixth of April 2015 All of the People of The Cook Islands shall now assume a position of responsible, inclusive and accountable government.

The singular precedent for this Proclamation defers to the ninety five point Diet of Worms Theses as formulated by Martin Luther in April 1521, from that event Reform commenced resulting in The Reformation.

May the Spirit of God guide this initiative to bring meaningful success to all Beings that dwell on this blessed place.

Signed:

J. Short. Tairi Terangi Rangatira
MR. PETER MATARA

Uira Inga Tekura Benioni

Uri Makapo Tanira MATARA.

Makara

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Seabed minerals training opportunity



The Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA) is seeking expressions of interest from Cook Islanders to take part in 2015/16 in GSR Belgium sponsored survey cruises related to Manganese Nodule Exploration in international waters, called Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ), north east of Hawaii.

The CCZ is managed by the United Nations body called the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and contains a rich Nodule belt at depths over 4,000 metres and stretching for hundreds of kilometres. It is estimated to contain 26 billion tonnes of Manganese Nodules.

By comparison, the Cook Islands EEZ is now estimated to contain 10 billion tonnes. The GSR cruises will conduct high level, scientific investigative Exploration work and training to gather Bathymetric, environmental, water column and seabed samples and data. This will then lead to the production of Reports and Maps for each investigated area to determine environmental baselines, delineation of

potential extraction areas, geostatistical analysis of nodule abundance and composition. In addition to the nodule related objectives, the exploration program cruises contribute to the global knowledge of the CCZ area and its potential use for the future needs of mankind.

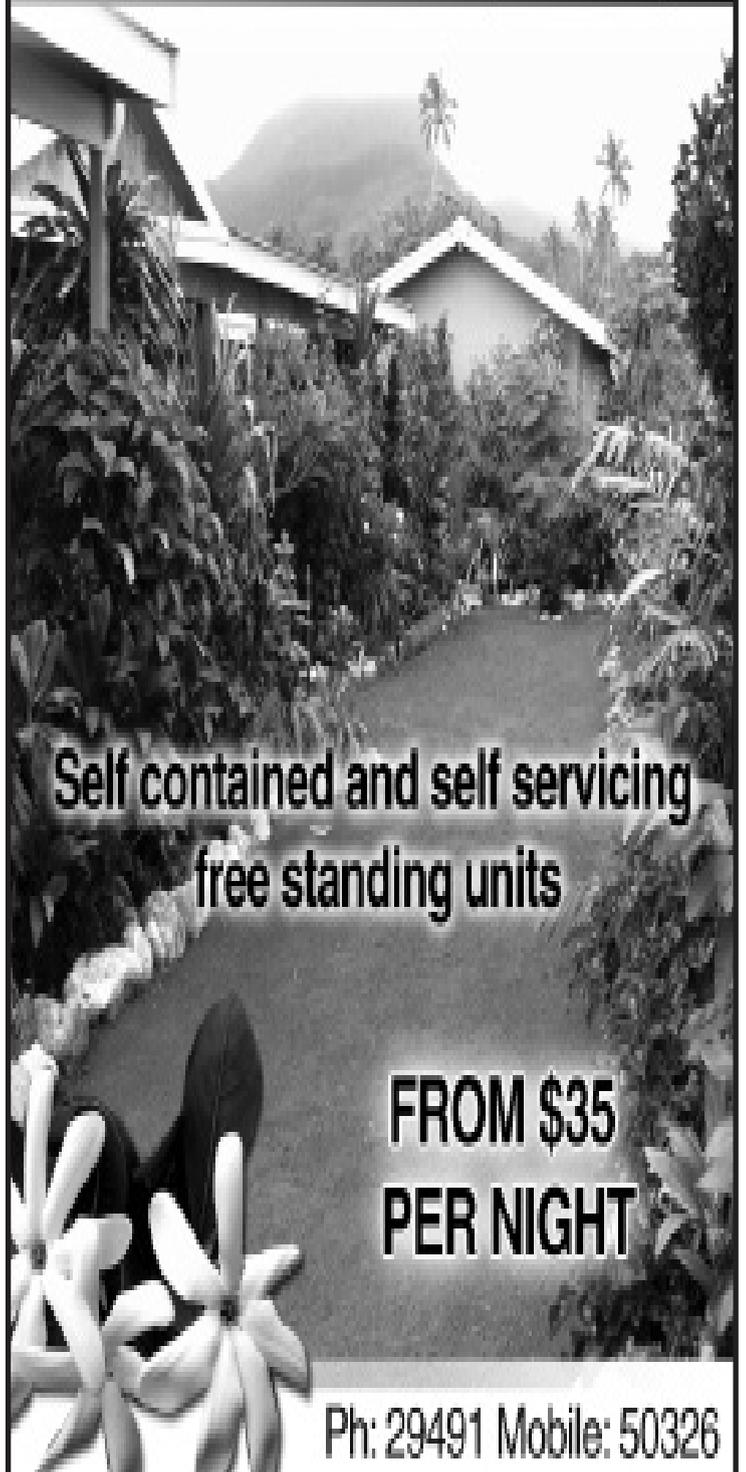
One of the SBMA's key objectives is for Cook Islanders to gain relevant sector expertise and then manage in all features of our developing national seabed minerals sector, under our jurisdiction and control.

Future Cook Islands connections with GSR Belgium will lead to Study Fellowships in co-operation with Belgian Universities, Internships within GSR and partner companies and relevant Academic and professional training opportunities.

Persons who are interested and hold Qualifications and experience in Marine Biology, Marine Geology and Marine Environment and related Degrees and disciplines, should contact the Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch on 29-193 or email on paul.lynych@cookislands.gov.ck for details.

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A journey of discovery: From humble beginnings

by Tetuhi Kelly

Part 1

Like most Maori of my generation born a decade after WWII we lived in a rural setting away from the towns and cities. Dad was from Waikato and closely related to Tainui royalty and mum was from Whangarei harbour of Ngati Pukenga affiliation. My dad's whanau thought he had married beneath himself and this was a point of contention for many years, as he had become persona non gratis, essentially disowned by his parents. His dad wanted to tomo him to someone else and I think my dad rebelled and purposely met my mother and the rest is history. At the time we as kids were blissfully unaware of the Maori goings on relating to tuakana and teina status. In our case we lived in Pukemiro Rd (at one time it was called Hardiman's Rd), in a 'settlement' in rural Whangarei west of Kamo, surrounded by farmland. Our settlement and farmland was dominated by an extinct volcano that rose some 150 metres above our settlement and it was an ancient fortified pa. We could look out over Whangarei City to the Heads as we were essentially in the foothills overlooking the whole city. The settlement had actually been a US military base of some sort arising out of the WWII conflict in the Pacific. We were always finding US coins in the dirt or when we were digging the garden. Rumour has it that at the end of the war, the yanks drove all their equipment into Lake Ora, a black, green, sulphurous, muddy and smelly piece of water, filled with eels, where we used to swim and go eeling. People in the village were all related and came from all over Te Taitokerau and we used to picnic on the lake when I was knee high to a grasshopper. We were pretty poor in those days, no chairs, tables, beds, fridge,

and washing machine, nothing to what the poorest people get these days.

No professional people in this settlement, all hard working, drinking, partying, salt of the earth lay people. The surrounding farmland was leased to a local cocky and the ol' lady Parore who owned the land lived in the settlement. Some of my fondest memories are Uncle Tom Tautari's massive pigs, kanga pirau, toroi, packhorse crayfish cooking in the old copper, eeling, fishing for crawlies, gathering watercress, swimming up the lake and up the head waters of the Whau valley dam, stone fights with the pakeha kids down in Crawford Crescent, beating up the local whanau kids, Dad being called on to fix the locals cars as he was the only trained mechanic in the settlement. Going and getting wild blackberry's, Maori peaches, mushrooms, nicking the fruit off the pakeha orchards, going out to Dargerville to get toheroa, possum hunting, stealing the cow cocky's horses and going for joy rides and climbing the local pa and pushing rocks down to smash into the stone wall at the bottom of the hill. One day the ol' lady Parore died and the land was eventually bought by that cow cocky whose name was Jack James. The money went to the whanau descendants who must have thought they had won golden kiwi. They bought new cars, went on trips and partied up large till the whole inheritance was blown and in the end they had very little to show for their inheritance. Whanau surnames who lived in the settlement at that time: Matt and Kura (she was Cook Islander and tino manea and he was kino, an abusive man), Parore, Brass, Pakinga, Wilson, Henry, Cash, Hardiman, Dunn, Herewini, Rewa, Taylor,

Mahanga, Panoho, Nathan, Himiona, Daiken, Siepkes, Kelly, Henderson, Anderson, Perry, Mackie, Peters, Hobson, Ashby, Paul, King and Tautari and a few others I've know forgotten. We used to go to the local marae down at Kitenikau road, and when it went into decline, a pakeha bought the property and built his home there right over the top of the old whareniui. We heard that he had no end of troubles on that whenua. I left home in 1971 and never went back to the settlement except to show my own whanau where I was brought up. Over the next 20 years, the town caught up with the settlement and it is now no longer the isolated community it was. Our family was the only one at that time that eventually went off and sought higher education, one of my sister's and I being the only ones that went to university and we are now o nga hau e wha, spread to the four winds.

My journey of discovery really began during the 1970's, a period of anger and frustration and self-discovery and renaissance for many NZ Maori of my generation. We had gone through a particularly bad period in the 1960's and 1970's where many of us rejected our Maori side in order to be better pakeha, can you believe it? Our grandparents, parents and our uncles and auntie's and all manner of whanau flocked to the cities from the little towns, off the farm or the marae and threw themselves into the burgeoning economic prosperity of those heady NZ, 1950's after the end of the 2nd world war. Work was plentiful and our whanau roamed far afield to settle overseas and in NZ cities such as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and some married intertribally, many married pakeha and they soon became and created the

diaspora of urban maoridom. Thinking back, a lot of them actually lost their Maoriness because their marriages were not partnerships in the true sense of the word they were more akin to partnering arrangements. Their pakeha partner's culture tended to overwhelm or disregard tikanga Maori, hence not a partnership in the true sense of the word. For the sake of peace and quiet in the home, many Maori submerged their Maoriness and became part of the lost generation. With pakeha influence came the naming of our children with pakeha names rather than Maori or tupuna names which would have some sort of meaning or significance and carry with it the pride of the whanau. Increasingly we were bowing to pressure to get our tupuna names anglicised so that pakeha could pronounce them. Not realising that we were contributing to the demise of our lore and corruption of our ingoa mana. This came at a huge cost to self-esteem and contributed to the loss of whanau and whakapapa connections. Having gone through this period I no longer allow people to shorten up or anglicise my ingoa mana and too bad if they struggle.

For those in different mixed marriages, how do you ensure your children are brought up equally well so that no single culture from your mixed marriage drowns out the other?

Home for many mixed up Maori became a distant memory and as they lost contact and their children lost contact, they made the best of it stuck between two worlds and it became less and less likely that they would return to their roots. You can see the descendants of those days, with family pictures and everyone dressed up like good pakeha.

continued next page

Eventually as their ties with their Maori heritage weakened they thought like pakeha and some became the greatest critics of Maori aspirations and all from a background of ignorance. Some of them became those very nice 'Maori', "our Maori" as that pakeha generation called us, whom my parents pakeha friends thought so much off as compared to us ungrateful who were born in the early 1950's to early 1960's. We were the generation called the 'baby boomers', spending like there was no tomorrow, drugs, alcohol, the good life and fixated on being successful. We experimented on all manner of things from drugs to clothes, to parties, music and hair fashion and of course free love. In the 1960's some of us who were old enough, celebrated the Teddy boy years, copied James Dean, copied the Beatles hair styles, enjoyed the new music revolution, platform shoes, flared trousers, afro's, we increasingly abandoned the church and celebrated the hippie era. By the time of the ending of the Vietnam War in 1972, and it coincided with an end to compulsory military training in NZ, I had just turned 18. The decades long rumbling of discontent for Maori became a rallying voice for Maori nationhood and Maori increased their challenges and resistance to the authorities over past grievances and Treaty of Waitangi issues. Hikoi to Wellington in protest marches, the harassment of central and local govt politicians and then downright civil disobedience, they were to the forefront, the modus operandi in those days.

Yes we had some wins as our protests escalated and more liberally minded pakeha got involved. Experience and expertise continued to arrive in the form of immigrants from the old country who continued the strong trade union ethic from the NZ of the 1950's which focussed on our rights, and to some extent not on our responsibilities for our actions. One of the turning points was eventually the government in 1975 establishing the Waitangi

Tribunal through the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. The Tribunal is a permanent commission of inquiry that is charged with making recommendations on claims brought by Māori relating to actions or omissions of the Crown that potentially breach the promises made in the Treaty of Waitangi. It took years for anything of substance to come out of that 1975 Act and in the meantime we still protested. The celebrations at Waitangi quickly became a fiasco as increasingly officials now had to be escorted by police onto and off the Waitangi Marae grounds. Every year people were glued to their TV's and listened to the radio for what was happening at Waitangi. We all recall the 1983 NZ visit by Prince Charles when Dun Mihaka a well-known Maori activist of the time (if you challenged the government that's what you were called and if you fought for the government you were called a patriot) dropped his pants and gave the Prince a '21 bum salute', or whakapohane as his way of saying, "I say ol' chap, naff off noddy". In those days so called Maori activists were getting the label of urban terrorists and were coming under the notice of the NZ SIS because of alleged ties to and invitations to overseas terrorist groups in places like Libya and other Muslim countries.

Was it easy in those days once the Tribunal was set up, the answer was no, it was the forerunner of things to come; now the real battle was to commence. The rush to win the hearts and minds of the NZ public was a long an stressful period for Maori never mind the downright ignorance and bigotry of rural farming NZ. One of the biggest hypocrites out were the NZ rural farmers who were enjoying the fruits of their labours off the back of Maori land that had been confiscated by the government or stolen by dubious methods and sold to them. Here these farmers were, lambasting us for our aspirations and being downright racist and meanwhile all was not well down on the farm. The statistics for injury and death on

the farm were horrendous, poor safety practices, unsafely stored chemicals, children unsupervised on farm vehicles and being injured or killed and the list goes on. Here they were getting stuck into us and meanwhile they were killing themselves and their children with their unsafe practices. During this time the international community and indigenous people everywhere were watching the goings on with some interest as 1st nation statehood was becoming an issue. The NZ government reacted as they always did, with overzealous use of the Police and enacting antisocial legislation to try and quell the resurgence in indigenous nationhood aspirations. Closer to home, certain government departments, some who were supposed to assist Maori such as the then Ministry of Maori Affairs, big business, and Joe & Jill Public were all doing their bit to undermine us at every step. Maori didn't help by getting their dirty laundry into the public eye because they couldn't agree on what they wanted or who should represent their interests. Media at that time mainly newspaper, TV and radio painted a picture of Maori as being ungrateful, and every man and his dog who had something to say said it. "The treaty was not worth the paper it was written on, the land had been acquired legitimately, Maori is a dying race and so on and anyway we are all one people te mea te mea te mea". Yes that mantra of 'we are all one people' sounds great on the surface. The issue is that it is about inequity and equality. As a Maori you are born and raised in the world of the pakeha. As a pakeha you are not born and raised in the world of the Maori, you have a choice. Maori do not have a choice, 'you is what you is' and not 'you are what you are'. Herein lays the inequity and the fallacy of 'we are all one people'. Because one of those people believes their way is the best and only way of living and family amounts to mum, dad and the kids rather than mum, dad and the kids and the extended whanau.

We were even being crapped

on by our own people in the public service who were the worst at being gate keepers to our inheritance and land rights. They had access to the written records and some were secretly working for their own whanau interests at the expense of their clients, us, much like what happens here in the Cook Islands. We even had disagreements with our own whanau who wanted to be so white, they didn't want to be singled out as Maori within their pakeha social circle, they wanted to hide behind the 'we are all New Zealanders' mantra. I recall a wahine who was obviously Maori, dark hair, dark skin, the nose, the whole shooting box, gorgeous in fact and she told me she was brought up as a white NZ'er even had a white name and therefore she believed she was pakeha and that was that. I tried to warn her that in times of Maori flexing their muscles over historical grievances, her close circle of pakeha friends would see her as Maori. Prophetically came the Moutoa Rose Garden occupation in 1995 by the local Iwi in Wanganui for past unresolved land grievances and this was big news for months. I heard through a mutual friend of the wahine that she was brought to tears because her pakeha social circle said to her, "and what do you Maori think about that protest" and this whole world that she had carefully built up to shield her from her roots, collapsed abruptly. Unfortunately for her, and there are many like her, one can choose what one believes on the inside, but you can't hide what people see on the outside, I have cousins who think like that, we all have cousins like that. Some of our misguided whanau were only too eager to get away from what they saw as negativity in being Maori. The trouble was, their children began asking about their heritage so they could pass this on to their children. Tough really, you can run but you cannot hide.

World Red Cross Day

By Tiana Haxton

Friday May 8th the Red Cross Health workers on the island visited Mitiaro School to speak about World Red Cross Day.

Once all students were gathered into the school hall, one of the Red Cross workers told us about the Red Cross Foundation.

It was all started by Jean Henri Dunant.

Dunant was born on the 8th of May 1828.

As a young man, Dunant came across a battle field covered with hundreds of dead and dying soldiers.

He persuaded the locals to help him dress the soldier's wounds and nurse them back to health.

When Dunant returned home to Switzerland he established the Red Cross Foundation.

The Red Cross Foundation began caring and healing the sick and injured during times of trouble such as wars. They provided help to natural disaster victims such as tsunami, hurricane and earthquake victims.

In 1901, Dunant was awarded the first ever Nobel Peace Prize for founding the Red Cross Foundation Project.

In 1910, 30th of October, Jean Henri Dunant passed away at the age of eighty two.

The Red Cross Foundation continued and today provides health care to those in need all around the world.

In memory of Henri, his birthday is celebrated annually as "World Red Cross Day."

Denise, the lady who was talking to the Mitiaro school students then got them to sit around some tables before asking the senior students (including me) to help give around some coloured papers. Denise wrote on the black boards in large letters: HAPPY BIRTHDAY HENRI DUNANT!!! She asked us to use our card to create birthday cards for Henri. Colouring pens and pencils and colourful crayons were given out for us all to utilise.

While we were all busy creating our cards, parents and teachers and Red Cross Volunteers set a table with mouth watering foods and a drink container.

Once our cards were finished and collected, we were all re-seated before grade by grade we were called to the table and our plates filled. There was so much to choose from and a lot of left overs which we also took home. After eating we played soccer until the end of school. It was a long and fun game, both teams were very competitive and nearly everyone had a trick up their sleeves. The younger student's game was very amusing and the whole day proved to be a very entertaining one

University Is Where It's At

By Lucianne Vainerere

People call it university; others call it college, and either way they end up doing the same thing, studying for degrees, diplomas, masters and PHD's. The buzz going through the year 13's these past two weeks are scholarship applications. Many of us want to do further study overseas and we're all pretty much in the same boat when it comes to funding terms. As older teenagers or young adults we become afraid but excited to enter the 'real' world. The whole scholarship and two year bond got most of us thinking and it's pretty intense feeling everybody's vibes in wanting to fulfill their dreams and this being a slightly easier way to do it.

Unfortunately, I'm not applying for scholarship because for one, I don't have five out of nine required papers that need to be handed in with the application and two I'm afraid I might apply for it, get it, and not be as passionate about the subject like I thought I would, which would lead to low grades and the scholarship being stripped off of me leaving me with a massive debt to pay, especially since I have to courses of study in mind that are quite different from each other.

What I'm hoping to do though is get into AUT and study Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation. My dream is to be a successful businesswoman who built her own wealth from the bottom. I have a vision to manufacture eco-friendly appliances for the benefits of the country and the world. As well as launch a recreational center that allows people to get in touch with nature and unlock all seven of their chakras in order to have an open mind and a philosophical outlook on their life.

I also wanted to pursue travel management and wholesaling. Putting travel packages together for customers ranging from accommodation, activities and meeting their needs in terms of having a great and worthwhile holiday. The idea of being open minded and creative excites me and the thought of experiencing what I promote sounds refreshing. The whole travelling thing and seeing new places is something I really want to do. But I guess everyone wants to do that until they eventually get tired and want to settle for a more grounded career.

University is quite stressful and requires most of your time and full dedication to truly being successful and making your own dreams come true, that's not meant to discourage you, if anything it's a warning for what you should prepare yourself for if you do in time decide to go. Even if no one in your family ever went or fully finished. You can be the first. Your dreams are important and if others can't see it the way you do, ignore them and do it for yourself. But be careful, my geography teacher once told us that even if you're on the right track, and you're sitting still you'll get run over.

Trusting in God

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I was speaking on how the environment we live in affects our lives socially; culturally; economically, and so on. These situations can affect our focus in life. In the Bible, James 1v.2-3 reads "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Proverbs 3v.5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

I encourage you to continue 'trusting God'. Too often when people face difficult situation they give up 'trusting God'. David said in Psalm 23v.4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." This is good, but "How do you Trust God?" In the Bible in Hebrews 11v.8-12 there are 4 tests or trials that Abraham went through in building himself up in "TRUSTING GOD."

(1) MAJOR CHANGE IN LIFE In v.8 we see that by faith Abraham got up and he "went out not knowing where he was going to." Abraham obeyed God and he got up and went. When you're faced with a Major Change in your life I encourage you to Trust God.

(2) In v.9-10 we see the second point A DELAYED PROMISE. Often because of our human nature we are anxious to know when the

Promise of God will come to pass. David the shepherd boy was promised to be the King of Israel when he was still a young boy. He didn't sit on the throne until many years later. David has to wait for God's timing for the promise to come to pass. During the waiting period God was preparing David in the wilderness. Moses has to wait 40 years before God's promise to deliver the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt came to pass. And during the 40 years waiting period, God was preparing Moses in the wilderness. Wait (patiently) on God without knowing WHEN His Promise for you, for your family, for your loved ones, will come to pass!

(3) In v.11 we see the third point THE IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM Abraham was promised an heir or a son. When he was 100 years of age, and his wife Sarah 90 years, Isaac their son was born. 25 years later God's Promise to them came to pass. This is impossible. Mark 10v.27 says "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Trust God and expect a miracle without knowing HOW it is going to happened. We must be committed to God, and totally trusting in Him, even when we do not know How God will do things. Our part is to Trust God! That's what you call "Faith!" "Real Faith!" How God do things, that's His business! Just say to yourself, "Lord, I don't know how You will do it, but I Trust in You!"

(4) In v.17-19 we see

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



point four A SENSELESS TRAGEDY In these verses Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac his only son, yet Abraham Trusted God. Even in unusual situation God test how strong our faith is. Trust God in His purposes not knowing WHY He has called you to do certain things. In the story of Job in the Book of Job, Job was full of sores, (2v.7) he was sick to the point of death, (2v.12-13) yet Job said these words in Job 13v.15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust

Him." Know this, you as a child of God, God does not allow things to happen to you, unless He allows them. Often many Christians when they encounter senseless situations they give up "Trusting God."

I encourage you to maintain your faith and Trust in God regardless of the challenges you face in life. Remember "tough times don't last but tough people do." Be encouraged and may God bless you.

Te Atua te aroa.

Growing Up

By Teherenui Koteka

Yesterday the 12th of May was my younger sister Tiamai Koteka's birthday. She turned fourteen, her ageing that significant day older made me realize that time just flies by. I have mad love for my little sis. But it was not always like that. I remember when she was just toddler and I used to get mad at her for eating my jelly beans and I remember how it infuriated me when she pulled my hair (it was an afro back then).

As she got older, I began to get mad at her for other things. I remember I would have been around seven and she would've been about five. I would cry and cry when my parents gave me scolding's for making her cry. Of course being seven these little spurts of anger were over stupid things like her always wanting the same stuff as me, I just couldn't understand why she could not do her own thing. She would follow me around like a puppy and I would ignore her for as long as I could, but that usually was not very long. The days would end in tears. I thought I was too "grown up" for her. I was one of the "big girls" and she was not.

This type of ignorant thinking went on for years. I recall my parents constantly reminding me that she just wanted to be like me. I thought that was all bogus back then. As the years went on the annoying factor

in our relationship became her touching my stuff without permission. I would come home and find her wearing my shirt and just erupt with anger. She did the same to me. I cannot tell you how many arguments were created over the shiny purple sequined top. At the time I literally thought she was the most annoying thing in the world, and I'm sure she thought of me the same way.

I remember my aunty Kristine telling me "that I wouldn't find her so annoying when the age gap began to close"; I told her "there's no way that's ever going to happen". I was wrong. Nowadays there is no one in the world I love more than my little sister. We barely fight about anything. Looking back on the foolish way I used to treat her I am stunned. My aunty Kristine was right. The void of annoying habits that once stood between us as children slowly began to disappear. Now all that remains are those funny memories about how we used to fight. The constant fighting has been replaced by hours of laughter and inside jokes. The crude comments substituted for inside jokes, and the imaginary hate we once had for each other swapped for buckets and buckets of sisterly love.

Looking back now on those childhood years I see just how fast my sister has grown up, and I see just how fast time flies.

Chooks extra

Notice all the land being cleared at the Panama end of the airport? Bulldozers have scraped all the vegetation away back to bare earth. With the Airport Authority looking to borrow \$23m to upgrade the airport, will we see the runway extended?



What happened to Rassi's weekly Rant and Rave Chronicle this Monday? Had he run out of wind or was his latest write up just too hot for the passive middle of the road daily to handle?



While stitching a cut on the hand of a 75 year old farmer, whose hand was caught in the squeeze gate while working cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation about a recent election. Eventually the topic got around to politicians and their role as our leaders. The old farmer said, "Well, as I see it, most politicians are 'Post Tortoises'." Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a 'post tortoise' was. The old farmer said, "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a tortoise balanced on top, that's a post tortoise." The old farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face so he continued to explain. "You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while he's up there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and you just wonder what kind of dumb arse put him up there to begin with." Best explanation of a politician I've ever heard.



Oh dear chooks! One theory is proving correct and that is, once a country's population drops below a certain level, those remaining become resistant to change. This is probably because most of the entrepreneurial types have migrated to greener pastures. What is evident now is resistance to certain fishing methods, resistance to business on a Sunday, and so on. From here it's just a short step away from resistance to coloured underwear!



Pride has returned to schools with kids wearing brightly coloured school uniforms. It wasn't that long ago that school kids in natty grey uniforms, marched military style up to a flag pole and stood to attention as the flag was raised then sang the national anthem (of another country) before marching into classrooms, given a hard milk biscuit to chew on and then being brainwashed rote style! Are those days about to return?



What's happened to the really important issues like political reform? Seems everything is taking a back seat to purse seine fishing! What happened to the Te Mato Vai petition? Taken a back seat to purse seine fishing! How many of us actually eat Skipjack Tuna? How many of us actually eat Big Eye Tuna? The figures from local fishermen show we mainly chew on Yellow Fin Tuna. Over 100 tonnes caught locally each year! Why would fish stocks matter to the North? Penryhn's population was once 700 now it's down to just 150 or so. People on Penrhyn will now be eating less fish because the people are simply no longer there!



Less fish being caught? Of course! There's less fishermen going out now than there used to be. Anyone who was around Raro in the 1950s will tell you that! Why? It's not because the fish are no longer there, it's because of population shift to NZ! Back in the 1960s we were importing frozen fish from NZ and selling it at the old "Freezer." Back then the Koreans and Japanese were fishing our waters. No protests back then.

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

At a Sponsors launch for the 50 year Maire Nui Celebrations on Saturday night at Trader Jacks the BTIB lot were highly embarrassed when some CITC staffers abruptly turned up and in front of everyone including Elvis who was standing in for an absent Bully Boy Bulldozer Heta and removed their display of banners hanging up. It seems the BTIB weren't willing to comply with Trev's condition as the sponsor, CITC decides how the overly generous \$100,000 was to be distributed. Noticeably absent was Niki Eney who spent all his \$90,000 budget in the first two months this year celebrating the aging entertainer Papa Crummer visit and outdoor performance, Crummer's biggest contribution to our 50 years of Independence was to be absent living overseas. Never mind the likes of Jake who has sung over a million songs to our guest on arrival and departure. Just typical of the CIP, reward those who never lifted a finger to help the Party become government.



The dithering Demos had better arise out of their slumber and get campaign ready because you heard it here first, Elvis will call a snap election for October this year. The Demos disaster and failure specialist hello Drolley needs to get those raffles ready, with the war chest bone dry and debt as high as the ceiling campaigns need money and a lot of it. Start earning your \$1200 a week hello Drolley or else it will a losing streak of four times and it will be good bye Drolley. Cut the excuses Drolley and make the effort to clear the \$156,000 debt the Demos owe.



Doesn't pay to go on holiday when



you have a 24/seven business to keep an eye on, when Mr 500 went on a holiday to Bully land someone took their frustration out on every body's favourite water station, the tank was nearly over turned and some of the pipes got disconnected.



After last week's story about the \$23,000 Air Raro charter that flew Mrs Puna to Manihiki, Elvis as requested responded with an explanation that didn't convince anyone not on his payroll. Yes the plane was chartered by the Renewable Energy Commission of which he is the Minister. We are told Mrs Puna and his driver caught the flight as it was convenient to use the opportunity. We are told the flight was not chartered to fly Mrs Puna to Manihiki but to carry important equipment such as street lights to be installed ready for McCully's visit to launch the NZAid funded solar project. If that is 100% true PM Elvis why were nearly a half of the solar street lights off loaded to make way for Mrs Puna's pickup tray full of personal cargo? Witnesses claim the off loaded solar equipment was picked up by a surprised (At the amount left behind) Renewable Energy staff member

last Monday after the Saturday flight. Why couldn't the PM's driver remain behind so the urgent freight that was off loaded could have been delivered and installed before McCully arrived on Tuesday this week? Elvis, why don't you just admit you rorted the system and apologise?



If the daily dribble isn't bombarding us with animal welfare articles, regurgitating fishing stories or letters from Junie who should be employed full time seeing she fills up more white space than any other writer they have, anchor Willsen should stop lowering herself to making news out of the letters to the edita but good to see she had Monday's issue covered at both ends. Saturday's front page story about Aitutaki being the economic centre of the Cook Islands was just a summary of a statement signed by about 60 business people in Aitutaki (the land of inflated oversized egos) was so stupid this glorious publication didn't want to be just as stupid by giving it oxygen, Etita get off your lazy bums and write real stories about what's really going on and stop relying on letters for some opinionated news or just put Mata Willie

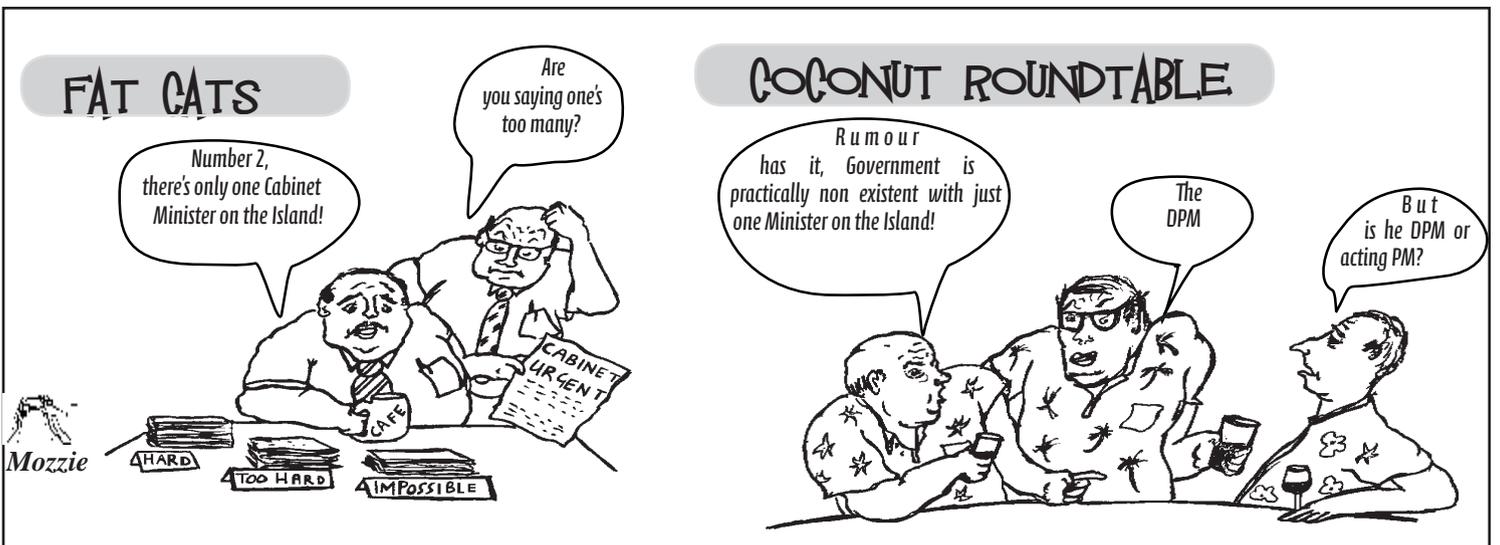
back in charge at least she had some doesn't have false teeth.



Looks like the Aitutaki Sharks have got the false teeth, may be by now they are convinced they are just not cut out for mixing it with the Raro league men. After ten years and still no signs they are medal contenders we may have seen the last of them. What Cook Islands Rugby League needs to push the game to another level is a state of origin with the Cook Islands verses the Rest Samoa/Fiji/NZ and Aussie) While the Takuvaine Worriers may have won the wooden spoon they will have no trouble trampling over everyone that fronts up in the Rugby they will win for the third year running.



The stupid architect of Nenevanomics asked the idiotic question about where would government get \$10 million from if the fishing got stopped? Neneva Neves is supposed to be the financial wizard of Aus so why can't he come up with some creative solution other than the lazy lame excuse to increase taxes and rob pensioners. Robin Hood was a robber but at least he robbed the rich to help the poor, Neneva robs the poor struggling pensioners to prop up his degenerated, wasteful self enriching political friend, that's why he is called Neneva Neves. You are provided with a beach front accommodation, a free vehicle with petrol and paid \$330,000 a year and who knows what else, so stop bludging and start earning your pay by coming up with some intelligent and inspirational ways to get us out of the economic chicken poop mess you have got us into.



Community Based Health

Kia Orana Everyone. To date, there have been 322 numbers of chikungunya cases reported to the Government since October 2014 (Cook Island News, 1 May, 2015). As an auxiliary to Government, identifying how we as a humanitarian organisation can support Government during these times is important.



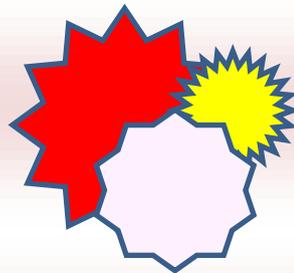
Tamariki Mitiaro te uru nei te nio

As such, developing and implementing preparedness plans in terms of prevention of and response to vector borne illnesses such as dengue, chikungunya and sika is important. The Epidemic Control for Volunteers Pacific Toolkit developed by IFRC, is a fantastic resource that we will be able to utilise alongside the Standard Operation Procedure that is currently being developed.



Leanne, our Branch Officer in Mangaia has been busy supporting the healthy activities, reporting that the walking and zumba classes remain popular with a good number of people attending regularly. Supporting and assisting Mama Gill with the Junior Red Cross is another important activity that she is involved with every Friday. Activities that the Junior Red Cross have been involved with

to date include creating artwork, visiting the elderly in the community, making mini first aid kits and cooking. Mangaia recently had their Tutaka inspections and Leanne assisted the local Health team with these and used this time to build and strengthen networks.



Denise, our Branch Officer in Mitiaro has been busy sourcing prizes for the 8 week Vae Vae challenge that started beginning of March. Thank you to Public Health especially Karen Tairea (Nutritionist/NCD Coordinator) for your support with the Vae Vae challenge and for the donation of resources that will be used for prizes.



Mangaia Zumba and

Vaevae Cha



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TENDER



**COOK ISLANDS POLICE SERVICE
SEARCH AND RESCUE BOAT C01/2015**

Tenders are requested for the supply of a Search and Rescue Boat for the Cook Islands Police Service. Tender specifications can be uplifted from the Police National Headquarters at Avarua and is also available on the CI Police Service website www.police.gov.ck or contact Inspector John Hosking on 22499 extension 2110 or email: john.hosking@police.gov.ck Completed hard copies, secured and labeled clearly "CONFIDENTIAL" and have following information:
Inspector John Hosking
Search and Rescue Boat Tender C01/2015
Cook Islands Police Service
P.O. Box 101
Avarua
Rarotonga
Cook Islands
The Tender Box is located at the Drivers License office of the Cook Islands Police Service.

Tenders will close on the 15th May 2015 at 3pm.



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS AND TRAINING

The Ministry of Transport through its partnership with the SRIC-CC Programme is inviting suitably qualified groups/companies to submit a tender for the supply of eleven (11) automatic weather stations and to provide training to personnel's in the installation, operational and maintenance of the automatic weather stations.
Registration and Tender Documents can be requested from the following contact person:
Project Manager – Mr. Arona Ngari Cook Islands Meteorological Services Ph: +682 20603
Fax: +682 21603
Email: arona.ngari@cookislands.gov.ck
Closing date for the Tender submission is 3pm on Friday 15th May 2015, (Cook Islands time).
For general enquiries please contact Mr. Arona Ngari on +682 20603 or email.

TENDER



REQUEST FOR TENDER

1. HAEMATOLOGY ANALYSER (5part differential)
2. HAEMATOLOGY ANALYSER (3part differential)
3. ULTRASOUND EQUIPMENT

Tenders are requested for the supply of specific medical equipment for the Rarotonga Hospital. This tender is in three sections:

1. Haematology Analyser (5part differential)
2. Haematology Analyser (3part differential)
3. Ultrasound Equipment

The tenderer is permitted to tender on any one or more parts of the tender, but the tender must be for the whole requirement of that section.

Tenders shall be submitted either:

Hard copy - Complete hard copies, packaged and labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly exhibited on the outside:

Procurement of Medical Equipment 2014/2015 No.2
Cook Islands Ministry of Health
P O Box 109,
Avarua,
COOK ISLANDS

OR

Softcopy: By emailing the tender bid as a pdf file to tenders@cookislands.gov.ck with the subject line "Procurement of Medical Equipment 2014/2015 No.2". The receipt time on the inbox will be used as the receipt time for the purposes of ensuring a tender is within the time limits.

The Tender Box is located at the Funding and Planning Office of the Cook Islands Ministry of Health in Tupapa (or submitted electronically to the email address detailed above)

Tender/Offer Closing Time

Request for tenders will close on the 22nd May 2015 at 4.00pm.

Tender document and specification can be uplifted from the Funding & Planning office of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa and is also available on the Ministry of Health website www.health.gov.ck or contact Ms Vaine Ngatokorua on ph 29664, fax 23109 or email: v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck

Meitaki maata

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

**Notice to all Foreign Enterprises
(companies and Individuals)**

Pursuant to the Development Investment Act 1995-96, Part VIII, section 34 Annual Filing of information notice is hereby given to all registered foreign enterprise and individuals that Annual Filing of information is due on 30th June 2015. Forms are available at the BTIB office at Ruarongia or can be sent via email, postal on request. Failure to comply with this notice is an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a statutory fine.

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Blatter in last talks with Palestine and Israel FA

May 11 - Sepp Blatter will try one last time to forge a compromise to prevent Palestine's call for Israel to be suspended from FIFA from being put to the vote at the FIFA Congress on May 29.

40A statement from FIFA following Sunday's meeting said that "both member associations agreed to pursue the dialogue" and that Blatter "will travel to Israel and Palestine to meet their respective FA presidents and heads of state ahead of FIFA Congress."

The Palestinian request is officially on the agenda at the Congress and Blatter, who has publicly stated he is against the idea of suspending Israel, wants to do everything he can to remove the item - or at least modify it. Israel says it has no control over its government's security policy in the area which is why Blatter is also to meet the respective heads of state.

Eini has already tried to preempt any vote by writing to all of FIFA's 209 members urging them to reject the Palestinian proposal.

After the latest meeting he was quoted as saying: "I am a little more optimistic today but it does not change anything in our preparation for the possibility of a vote in Congress ... Our argument remains clear, that this is an attempt to involve politics and sports and there is no place for such a move. It is clear to me that most FIFA members understand very well the intention behind this Palestinian move and the destructive impact it would have."

But the Palestinians appear to be holding firm.

"It is clear that the Israeli Soccer Association is not willing to recognise the PFA as a federation with equal rights and obligations, just as they continue to violate their commitments



made before FIFA," Rajoub said in a statement.

"We are therefore determined to continue our path to suspend the Israeli Soccer Association during the next FIFA Congress."

Rajoub's proposal would need a three-quarters majority to pass and Blatter's task in the coming days will be to secure some kind of diplomatic agreement that prevents either side from losing face.

Israel was originally an AFC member but was expelled in the 1970s following pressure from Arab and Muslim members and was in the footballing wilderness until being admitted to UEFA in 1994.

Blatter would ideally like to go to Congress with some kind of progress on the Middle East, especially given the fact he is due to address delegates on mediation efforts.

Gang of three meet secretly in Nyon to plot final assault on Zurich

May 12 - No public statement has so far been issued by any of the three candidates taking on Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency amid considerable intrigue as to what strategy agreement, if any, was reached between Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, Michael van Praag and Luis Figo at a private meeting they are believed to have held close to the headquarters of UEFA on Monday.

As the campaign moves into its final phase, it is widely anticipated that at least one of the three challengers will pull out of the race to dethrone Blatter after both Prince Ali, FIFA's outgoing Asian

vice-president, and Dutch FA president Van Praag conceded that discussions may be needed to decide on the best candidate.

Emails sent to the various parties drew no response, perhaps an indication of the highly sensitive and complex nature of the tactics being drawn up to try and prevent Blatter from securing a fifth term of office on May 29 - or at the very least taking the ballot into a second round of voting.

Meanwhile, van Praag has been given the backing of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) as the challenger most likely to tackle the problem of migrant workers engaged



on building projects for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Only FIFA's 209 member federations vote in the election and the results of the poll will have little or no bearing on the result but for what it's worth, the ITUC said Van Praag and

the Dutch FA had taken the toughest line.

"Prince Ali has also spoken strongly on the issue, but only one candidate, Michael van Praag, has put human rights in his official election manifesto," said the ITUC.