

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

12 August 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

*Congratulations
Woman of the
Month, Dr Neti
Tamarua Okotai
Herman featured
here modelling this
beautiful black pearl
strand, bracelet, ring
and earrings from
Goldmine.*

www.facebook.com/RaroPubCrawl

**THE BIGGEST & BEST
PUBCRAWL
ON RAROTONGA**



**WED & SAT \$25, FRI \$30
CALL NOW
on 29700
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

CIPS IMAGE & COPY CENTRE

DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTS STANDARD TO SUPER BIG
Printed on Photopaper or Canvas



ONLY
35¢
100 Plus Prints

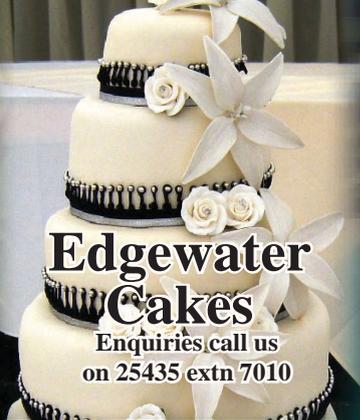
Well also sell digital cameras, printers, cellphones,
car audio and much much more..

FUJIFILM OKI Canon

Come in and see the photo specialists today
Located Opposite Cooks Corner

PH: 26 238 FX: 21 238 Email: fuji@cookprint.com

*Cakes for
all occasions!*



**Edgewater
Cakes**

Enquiries call us
on 25435 extn 7010

**Sunset BarBQs
at the Shipwreck Hut**

Saturday Seafood menu
with Jake Numanga on
the Ukulele 6pm

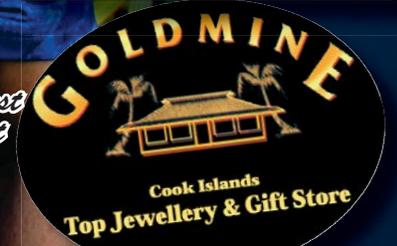
Tuesday Sunset BBQ with
Carth Young on Piano 6pm

Thursday Sunset Cocktails
with Rudy Aquino
5.30pm-7.30pm

Reservations required
22 166

Aroa Beachside Inn, Betela
Great Food, Great Entertainment

*Always the best
selection, best
price & best
service at
Goldmine!*



POWERBALL RESULTS

Drawn: 6/8/15 Draw num: 1003

5 7 16 17 25 26 PB 17

TATTLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 8/8/15 Draw num: 3553

1 13 24 28 29 33 SUPP: 14 20

OZLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 11/8/15 Draw num: 1121 Next draw:

1 4 9 11 15 32 37 SUPP: 34 44

\$4

60
MILLION

COMPUTER MAN Sales Parts & Service

**20% OFF
ALL INK
WHEN YOU BUY ANY
PRINTER**

PH 24979 Located in Tutakimoa Next to CITV

Neves spouts a litigation of lies to fudge Mike Henry's shipping contract

It's no surprise the Cook Islands Party Government's contract with Mike Henry's shipping company Pacific Schooners Limited (PSL) is just another nauseating rort characteristic of their seedy hand out deals for the favoured inner circle few.

What the government is about to learn is the rotten stench that's emanated from this service contract is the public have had enough; the fury at the arrogance of the spin doctoring lies has deepened the public's opinion the Henry Puna CIP administration is corrupt and blatantly politically prevented.

The reactive raw nerve is very tender and unforgiving that the CIP continue to push the boundaries of decency. This collision of values has tipped the scales of good will to the point it is the CIP government's point of no return, this cheap shot to bail out Mike Henry is the beginning of the political end for Puna's wretched cronies.

The Financial secretary Richard Neves is not only incompetent and out of his depth but he has become as corrupt as the political company he keeps. Neves by his own public admissions has sunk to the lowest point of his shoddy tenure by unashamedly lying to protect himself and the government.

Neves denied the service contact was tailor made to accommodate Mike Henry's company; the other shipping contractors were unable to provide an accurate tender because of the lack of details provided.

It now appears the agreed \$7,500 a day fee was accepted after the contract was awarded to Henry's non registered company Pacific Schooners Limited. On Radio Cook Islands Te Kave Korero programme on Friday 20 June 2015 Neves was questioned about the legality of PSL he offered an unbelievably pathetic excuse in saying "We weren't aware that Pacific Schooners have been deregistered. I'm told it's an oversight."



© Garth Broadhead

Tiare Taporo

Programme host Tony Hakaoro also asked Neves two further crucial questions about where Government was helping Henry financially to get the Tiare Taporo released from the refiters in Canada his response was emphatic "No, the government is not helping them financially to get their boat here."

Neves went on to say "They'll get paid if they provide the service. If they don't provide the service then they don't get paid"

Hakoro probed further and asked, "Did government pay some money as a result of the contract entered with Pacific Schooners? Did government contribute to bailing out this company and paying for their boat to bring their boat to Rarotonga?"

Neves reply was "No, government hasn't bailed out

anyone. Government has a contract for the provision of the service. If the service isn't provided the government will not be paying for it."

On 1st August, according to Neves the charter contact (On MFEM website) specifies the vessel must be ready for service

wasn't a rumour it was a fact, by admission Neves had lied to the public on the 20 June Te Kava Korero radio programme.

In an amazing back flip Neves admitted government had paid Henry an undisclosed deposit due to commercial sensitivities. Neves denied ever advancing PSL

money because that was a political time bomb. Neves even had the gall and contempt of the public to say it was normal business practise to advance for the provision of transport services.

The reality is lying and abusing public trust has become Neves'

normal business practise not to mention the disregard he has for the MFEM Act.

As of the 11 August the Tiare Taporo is still moored in Panama awaiting funds to meet Canal commitments, refuelling and supplies, with the journey to

Continued next page

Neves denied the service contact was tailor made to accommodate Mike Henry's company...

and be capable of transporting 130 passengers back to the Pa Enea between August 9 and September 30 2015.

Neves also dispelled the rumour he had advanced Henry funds despite the Tiare Taporo being unsighted as being berthed at the Avatiu Harbour. It



Mike Henry



Richard Neves

Rarotonga expected to take up to 30 days PSL is in breach of their contract. In the mean time outer island participants have started finding their own way back home.

To expect them to hang around till Henry's sailing vessel gets here is so ludicrous and stupid and for Henry to expect anything less than the contract be terminated is just as idiotic. According to the contract government can retire the contract and be refunded the deposit in five days.

Neves insidiously advanced funds as a deposit despite the Tiare Taporo not being ready as specified in the contract. It isn't the taxpayer's responsibility to get the boat at the port, it cannot be deemed ready till the Public Health have inspected the vessel and cleared it fit to carry passengers. A Public Health officer flew to Samoa to inspect the vessel chartered to bring northern group passengers to Rarotonga.

Over \$200,000 was advanced to Mike Henry yet MFEM cannot pay its debts to local companies who have been waiting many months for small amounts. That's the reason Neves and the government won't disclose the deposit paid.

The total package is in the vicinity of \$390,000 which works out at \$3,000 per person for a

one way ticket. If that's not a blatant rip off the public's funds to help a CIP mate out then what is? What with his big fee to oversee the fireworks display and his \$100,000 salary, it's been the best celebration Mike Henry a convicted tax avoider has ever had.

What channels of redress do the public have?

Where is the leader of the Opposition William Smiley Heather? What a disappointment he is, hardly a murmur of protest, avoiding the public stage at all costs like his CEO Eddie Drollet they squander their opportunities occupying their paid hours glaring into a mental waste land.

Richard Neves must be disciplined and suspended while the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas investigates his politicising of his Finance Secretary position. It is a disgrace Neves has lied to the people of the Cook Islands and has by his own admission implicated himself in the corrupt practises of the CIP government. Although he is a political appointment Thomas in reality has no option but to relive Neves of his duties.

The abhorrence of this government is they can't repay money illegally removed from the Bank accounts of New Zealand pension recipients after promising

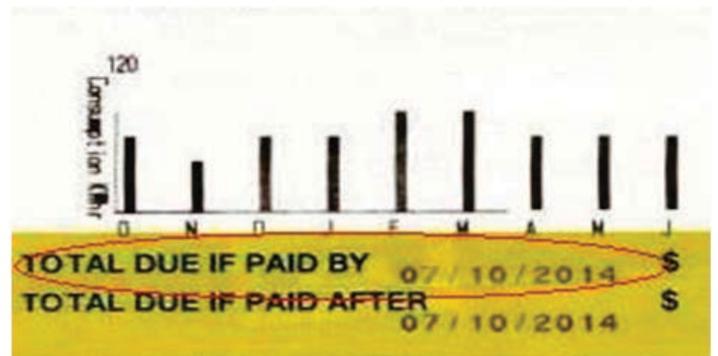
to do so (About \$30,000) but giving their political friend Mike Henry \$200,000 to help retrieve unnecessarily buy new cars and his ship.

- George Pitt



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

When is your
account overdue?



TE APONGA UIRA O TUMU-TE-VAROVARO

Depending on when your meter was read, there are approximately 30 days before your next meter reading.

During this time frame of 30 days, you are eligible to a 5% discount.

Accounts unpaid after 30 days are considered to be overdue.

www.teaponga.com



SALTWATER CAFE

Titikaveka. Ph: 20 020

For the month of August,
Salt Water Cafe
will be extending trading hours.

Opening Hours:

Sunday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Monday to Thursday: 9.00am - 6.00pm

Happy Hour from 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Come and try our new Menu and sit and watch the waves break over the reef while enjoying a coffee or cold drink



Chantal's
Rarotonga
Living

Made in the
COOK ISLANDS

Located at **FRUITS OF RAROTONGA,**
TIKIOKI, TITIKAVEKA.

Open: MON TO FRI 10AM TO 3PM

LOCALLY MADE GIFTS — PH: 77 058
• APRONS • TABLE RUNNERS • PLACE MATS • TABLE CLOTHS • NAPKINS • CUSHIONS

WHOLESALE ORDERS WELCOME!



Great day fishing on day one of the Gary Parlour Fishing Competition! 2 Wahoo, 3 Mahimahi, 3 Tuna and a Stripe Marlin. Day 2 will be interesting.



anything print!
DESIGNZ BY

Professional & Quality Designs
made in RAROTONGA!

52304
kokauadesignz@yahoo.co.nz

10 Questions

for Henry Puna Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

These questions have been asked before and have also been raised in the public forum. The Prime Minister and his government have been reluctant to front up and answer these questions, instead at times public servants and advisors are having to respond on their behalf. So we are asking these questions again in the hope that the Prime Minister himself will provide answers to all the concerns many of **Our People** have been asking.

1. Why have you and your Government misled the people of this country by paying in advance a deposit of approximately **\$200,000.00** to Pacific Schooners for a **Service Contract** when the service has not yet been provided and is unlikely to eventuate and your FINSEC in a radio interview denied ever paying any money? **No service, no payment.**
2. The 'Contract' specifies \$7500 per day to carry 130 passengers (**NOT CARGO**). Based on a contract period 9th August - 30th September that is a total of **\$390,000** making the cost of passenger's fare on the Tiare Taporo **\$3000 each - ONE WAY**. How do you justify that when the actual fare to **FLY is less than \$260 ONE WAY** to the Southern Group islands?
3. As a result of the obvious breach of Contract that is, the inability to provide the service as stated in the Contract effective from the 9th August, are you as head of government going to demand the refund of all the advances paid **within 5 days of the contract being in breach which is this Friday 14th August?** If not, why not?
4. You promised on the steps of Parliament to return the money that was 'stolen' from our **Pa Metua's** bank accounts **2 days before Christmas day 2013**. Some of that has been returned 2 years later. Do you think that these pensioners or their estates deserve to be paid interest and penalties for the pain and hurt your government had caused them as some of them are now deceased?
5. Why have you and your Government **not responded to questions** in the media relating to the appointment of the **former Aitu Mayor as Chairman of the Airport Authority Board** while he is still serving a suspended sentence? The Public have asked whether this appointment is an obvious case of nepotism and smacks of corrupt behaviour, your reluctance to respond is evidence of that, what do you say to that?
6. Do you not consider that **your pearl farm being redundant** for more than 2 years did not meet the NZ Aid component for assistance in the form of a **soft loan** but still managed to get that assistance that was designed for bona fide operating farms and then eventually **that loan having converted to a grant** as being evidence of a conflict of interest and **another example of an abuse of process of which you are the Minister responsible?**
7. Given that over **4000 people signed the Anti Purse Seine Fishing** petition, how can you justify ignoring these people by continuing to issue **MORE** purse seine fishing licences without allowing a **mechanism of our democracy** - Parliament - to consider the views of these people expressed in the petition, are their views not important?
8. The FINSEC Richard Neves challenged the Purse Seine Petitioners **May 7th 2015 "How Do We Replace Fish Money?"** Would you accept that the spending habits of your administration - 2014-2015 * Charter flights **\$250K**. New cars **\$600K**. Advance payment to Pacific Schooners **\$200K**. Overseas travel and allowances **\$1 Million**, are some of the areas where purse seine fishing license money is being channelled and wasted and removing this wastefulness would reduce the reliance on selling purse seine fishing licenses?
9. In Parliament 10th June 2015 you stated that you would be filing a complaint to the NZ Media Council over two stuff.com reporters who you stated had reported your comment to Dr. Colin Tukuitonga that **you 'wanted to give up NZ Citizenship and NZ Passports so you could access UN membership'** as having **"no substance whatsoever"**. Where is that complaint at this time? Did you in fact actually make that complaint? When? How? and Where to? If not, why not?
10. You said on the **Aitutaki Sunday Flight Referendum** that you **"want to deal with it, have it done with"** - Interview Te Kororeo. It is now over 4 months since the Vaipae/Tautu by-election, and there has been no action, what are your intentions?

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

** These numbers are approximates.*

Congratulations to Dr Neti Tamarua Herman

By Courtney Matai

Congratulations to Woman of the Month for August, Dr Neti Okotai Tamarua Herman. Dr Neti was born on the 26th March 1951 and resides in the village of Tupapa. "I was named after a nurse from Rarotonga (Mrs. Tata Fariu) who was the nurse in Manihiki when I was born". She was born and raised in Tukao, Manihiki and is married to Dr Teariki Tamarua Herman from Mangaia, and have six children (5 boys and 1 girl), and 7 grandchildren. Her Father is Okotai Kairua from Manihiki, and her Mother Mrs. Tuainekore Okotai Kairua (nee Arapai) from Ngati Pera of Puaikura. Dr Neti is number three in her family of 10 siblings (4 brothers and 6 sisters), and 7 feeding children. The most important thing to her is her immediate and extended families, as well as her loving parents who have passed on.

Hobbies and Interests:

Many of her hobbies include Cook Islands, Tahitian and classical music and dancing, netball, Tennis, swimming, reading, gardening, camping on the beach, and has interest in island food (mainly cooked in local umu). During her younger years as a secondary school student at Tereora, she too was a member of Tereora's Cultural dance team who had won the first Air NZ Trophy during the constitution Celebration Dance Competition. It was during this time that she was chosen as a member of the First Cook Islands National Arts Theater (CINAT) Dance Team formed by Victor and Beth Carroll. Some of her team members at the time were, Papa Raitia Tepuretu, Ota Josph, Papa George Karaponga, Vaine Turepu Clark, Tumupu Tumupu, Ngarima George, Tepoave Raitia, Teina

Etches and many others. She was also one of the Judges at the Cook Islands Te Maeva Nui dance Competitions for two years.

Primary and Secondary Education:

From 1957-1964, She attended Tukao Primary school in Manihiki, and in Jan-Jun 1965 She later attended Secondary education in Aitutaki Junior High School. She then Attended Tereora College in Rarotonga From June 1965 to 1969.

Master in Health Personnel Education (1992 – 1993)

Dr Neti Okotai has studied Teaching and Learning, Instructional Design, Primary Health Care, Planning and conducting educational workshops, Managing Human Resources in Health, Current approaches to Health Promotion, Understanding and working in Communities, Working in small groups, Audio visual production and alcohol and drug issues.

Community Services:

She was a member of the Avatea and Tereora College PTA School Committees for a number of years when her children were attending both Avatea Primary and Tereora College. She was also a Founding Member of Cook Islands Red Cross Society, and has been an Instructor in First Aid Training, and disaster management activities with particular reference to the recovery programs from Cyclone Martin in Manihiki. Neti Okotai participated in women's NGO's and the Women's Cook Islands Golden Oldies Netball Tournament that was held in Vancouver Canada in 1986.

Academic Record:

She also has a Bachelor in Health Administration, Master in Health Personnel Education and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), 2008 – 2013.

"The title of my Research Thesis is "Investing in Our Young People," in Cook Islands Maori, "Akaupokotuanga i ta tatou mapu no te au tuatau ki mua." This is a Qualitative research and the aim is to develop a Health Promotion Model in a Cook Islands Maori context, to promote the health of young people in the Cook Islands. My emphasis is on young people's strengths that focus on the positive aspects of young people's physical, mental, emotional, social, cultural, spiritual, economical and political development. The assumption is that if young people are healthy, happy and feeling good about themselves, they are likely to make healthy choices in their lives."

Awards/Scholarships:

Talented as she is, Neti Okotai received many awards and scholarships listed below:

- Health Research Council of New Zealand to undertake Doctoral (PhD) studies at the University of New Zealand, (2008 – 2013).
- AUSAID Scholarship to study Bachelor in Health Administration (BHA) and Master in Health Personnel Education (MHPED), University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia, (1990 – 1992).
- World Health Organisation (WHO) Scholarship to study Advance Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery, Waikato Technical Institute, (1980- 1981).
- NZAID Scholarship to study Nursing at Fiji School of Nursing, Suva, (1970- 1973).
- Cook Islands Government Scholarship to study Secondary Education at Aitutaki Junior High School, and Tereora College in Rarotonga (1965 – 1969).
- Awarded Sir Maui Pomare Medal for Best Student at

Primary School Level (1964).

Work Experience:

Part time Lecturer, Department of Pacific Health: 2011 – 2014
Part Time Researcher 2013 & 2014

Part time Lecturer, Department of Pacific Health: 2011 – 2014

Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) - October 2000 to February 2007

Acting Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MINTAFF): April 1999 – June 1999.

Director for Women, Youth and Sports: July 1997 - October 2000.

Chief Health Education and Promotion Officer – January 1993 – July 1997.

Registered Nurse, Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney: 1990 – 1992.

Principal, Cook Islands School of Nursing: 1984 -1990.

1982 – 1984 Senior Nursing Tutor, Cook Islands School of Nursing

1881 – 1982 Student Midwife, Waikato Women's Hospital

1978 – 1980 Tutor Sister, Cook Islands School of Nursing

1976 – 1978 Charge Nurse Medical Ward; Maternity ward; Obstetric, Gynaecology and Family Planning Clinic, Ministry of Health, Rarotonga.

1974 – 1976 Registered Nurse, Surgical Ward; General Medical and Infectious Diseases Ward, Auckland Public Hospital, New Zealand.

1973 – 1974 Fourth Year Student Nurse, Mater Mercy Private Hospital, and Auckland School of Nursing

1970 – 1973 Student Nurse, Fiji School of Nursing.

Dr Neti Okotai Tamarua Herman is a very hardworking and ambitious woman who has strived over the many years to reach her goals and achievements.

Woman of the Month Sponsors:

1. Islander Hotel & Restaurant- Rohan Ellis
2. Bank Cook Islands voucher & Wall of Fame
3. Pitt Media Group- CITV/ Herald
4. Farm Direct Pearls Lesley & Temu Okotai
5. Staircase Restaurant-Man & Sisi Short
6. Apii Urlich Flowers & Aunty Larry –ei Katu
7. Rarotonga Printing- Photo Production
8. Nga Bates – Massage
9. Nga Bates & Donna Fox -Little Red Gallery
10. Aunty Kafo- Kafoteria
11. Teuir's Spa - Mani/Pedi Special new sponsor
12. ANZ Bank -2013 (new Trophy & Voucher sponsor)
13. Melina Tuiravakai
14. Eric Sijp - Bowls & Photo Frames
15. Martha Makimare



TRIAD

TUTAKIMOA PETROL STATION AND MINIMARKET

Samoa Crunch Taro BBQ 150g



\$4.90
each

Imperial Mackerel in Oil or Tomato Sauce



\$2.20
per can

\$2.30
per can

Apple / Orange Juice 1lt



Ocean Fresh Laundry Powder 1kg



\$3.00
packet

Special Value Cocoa Cereal 794g



Fruit Whirls



Rainbow Mallows



Sanitarium Weetbix 1kg



Imperial Tuna Flakes



Mr Noodles 5pack Special Chicken & Curry Chicken



Protex Soap

Gentle, Active, Herbal



Budget Dog Food



Berry Fruits Biscuits



Cream Biscuits



Milk & Malt Biscuits



SAMOA TAULA BEER



Tento Toilet Tissue



NEW STOCK IN STORE NOW

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WEDS 5th AUGUST 2015

From Aitutaki to Vegas

Eighty year old Aitutakian singer and entertainer, Fred Tira, was Te Kave Korero's guest speaker on Wednesday 5th August 2015.

Tira who lives in America was recently in the Cook Islands attending the Maeva Nui and 50th anniversary celebrations of self-government.

He was one of the special guest artists who performed at the Maeva Nui on Friday 31st July with local pianist and entertainer, Garth Young, televised 'live' on Cook Islands Television.

"We were in Aitutaki over the weekend, it was so nice to go back home, the beauty of it that, people, when we landed at the airport and everybody saw the tv programme last Friday and it was very interesting, the comments and what have you, and the welcoming we had in Aitutaki, too good" said Tira.

Speaking about his career as a singer and entertainer Tira said that he went to New Zealand in 1950 and attended a Seventh Day Adventist school where a teacher taught him to sing properly.

"She [the teacher] said that, if I learned how to sing, that, I would have a great career and would last for a long time. I'm so grateful that I listened to the experts of vocal training and so I started my career".

"So it's amazing that from that point on, my singing career just exploded into something I think because of the songs that I learned, and the lessons that I learned, and the Cook Island rhythm that I put behind these papa`ā songs".

Tira said that it was a coffee bar in Wellington that gave him his first break into singing and entertaining crowds of people.

"What happened in Wellington, at that time, 1955, we were going home to catch

a train, we were living in Lower Hutt, and we went past a coffee shop and I looked in the coffee shop, there were may be 20, 30 people drinking coffee, and we walked in".

"There was, the pianist was an American guy, he owned the coffee shop, and I went straight to him and said I would like to sing a song, I can sing, he smiled at me and said what would you sing?".

Tira said that by the end of the evening the owner signed him up to entertain at his coffee shop.

Some years later after winning a talent quest in Wellington Tira moved to Sydney where he formed his own band and where he met New Zealand entertainment icons the late Prince Tui Teke and Sir Howard Morrison. He was in Sydney for four years before moving to Surfers Paradise.

In 1968 Tira was chosen by the Australian Defence Force to go Vietnam to entertain the Australian troops based there and was escorted by an Australian Navy General.

However on the way to Vietnam they stopped over in Singapore and during dinner at the hotel that evening he sang a few songs accompanied by the orchestra, then a few more, and by the end of the night he was sitting with the hotel owner who then offered him a one year contract to entertain at the hotel. He worked there for two years.

Tira said that he sang and entertained in Asia for 20 years where he also performed for the American troops based throughout Asia at the time.

He added that he learned to sing in different languages including Japanese, Indonesian, Phillipino, Malayan, Chinese, Italian, Spanish and others.

He recorded two albums in the Phillipines which produced four hits in Asia.

He later moved to Hawaii and became

good friends with Hawaiian entertainment icon the late Don Ho.

After working in Hawaii for eight years Tira ventured into mainland America where he also sang and entertained in a number of hotels in Las Vegas.

In offering advice for upcoming Cook Island singers and entertainers Tira said that they must learn to sing only "the songs that is popular and will stay popular for a long period of time".

"Don't sing songs that is what we call a 'throw away song', that comes and goes and is forgotten".

"Don't drink, don't smoke, don't abuse yourself. You have one voice, to understand, that voice is given only by God to you, to look after, and, when you sing to the people, that's it, you're sent here with a talent".

Tira expressed much appreciation of his homeland and his joy of being able to attend and be part of our 50th anniversary celebrations of self-government.

"Kia orana kotou te iti tangata o te Cook Island. This time of celebration, it is so wonderful to come back home and see everybody. You know, I was saying to a few friends of mine, this is the only place on this planet where the people are so loving, not only for the moment, everyday of their lives when they wake up till they go to sleep, they are the most loving, loving people, the Cook Islanders, and I love them all", said Tira.

"We are very proud of Pāpā Fred and his success as a Cook Island entertainer based overseas in his showcase days. He may not be well known in New Zealand and the Cook Islands, but he is certainly an entertainment icon in Asia, Europe and the United States", said Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro.

Pāpā Fred has returned to America where he lives in Hollywood.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 7 AUGUST 2015

Neves on coins & Tiare Taporo

Financial Secretary, Richard Neves, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Friday 7th August 2015.

Interviewed first about coins Neves said the Cook Islands coins will be recycled and the New Zealand coins would be returned.

“Now, with the Cook Islands coins, what we’ll do is we’ll send them back to get smelted, that means to melt down to get the value of the metals that are in the coin and the New Zealand coins we’ll sell back to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand at their face value”.

Neves said that although New Zealand coins would be returned to New Zealand they are still legal tender.

“Firstly all the old coins that we’ve got, we’re taking back, so for example, the triangular two dollar coin that’s like a silver colour, that would come back in the New Zealand coins that are circulating, although you can still use New Zealand coins if they come in, they’re still legal tender, but the New Zealand coins, we’ll take them back in”.

“As the New Zealand coins start rolling in the Ministry of Finance takes them back and would then send them back and resell them back to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand”.

Asked whether families and relatives coming from New Zealand should change their coins to the local coins upon arrival Neves said that using them locally would not be an issue.

“You can still use them, they’re still legal tender, but what will happen is as they go through the bank system, the bank will collect them, we’ll take them in and we will take them back to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand. We want to maximize the use of Cook Islands coins within the economy, because that gives us more

revenue essentially”.

With regards to the Tiare Tāporo Neves said that it is two weeks behind schedule and is still in Panama, South America.

He added that the Tiare Tāporo has “between August 9th and September 30th” to perform the contract entered into with Government.

Neves said there are no issues with a breach of contract.

“What we’ve got is a schedule activities up until end of September so in that sense, no, it’s not a breach of contract so to speak. Obviously there’s always a concern that, you know, we were hoping that they will get here a bit earlier and we will be shifting people out a little bit earlier than what we desired”

Neves said that the Tiare Tāporo has been chartered at \$7,500.00 a day.

“If in between that time they give us 30 days worth then we pay 30 x \$7,500.00. If they give us ten days worth then we’ve incurred an expense of \$75,000.00. That’s what the taxpayer will pay”, said Neves.

When asked as to how much Government paid to Pacific Schooners Neves was protective of the amount using commercial sensitivity not to answer the question.

“Commercial arrangements between Government and a private individual or private business are between those, but ultimately in the end, Pacific Schooners have a contractual agreement with the Government and the Government will only pay in the end for the chartered services provided by Pacific Schooners”.

“So, if by the 30th of September Pacific Schooners have done 15 days and they get paid for 15 days worth of work at \$7,500.00”.

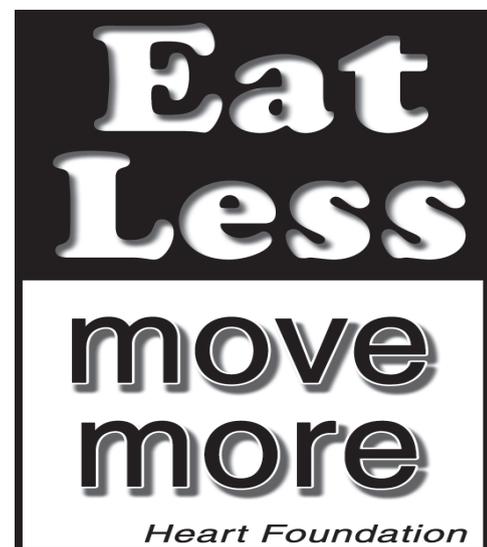
Presenter Tony Hakaoro said it’s “a terrible start” for the Tiare Tāporo given it’s already two weeks behind schedule.

“Oh well, I’m not gonna deny that. I would have liked Pacific Schooners to have been here at the time that we hoped that they would be here around August the 9th and they’re getting here late and that’s a bit disappointing and I think we put that out as a risk previously that we might have to find alternative arrangements to get people back which would mean Pacific Schooners would be providing less days worth of charter”, Neves said in response.

According to Hakaoro “it’s not a good look for both the Government and the Tiare Tāporo”

“The Government, in my opinion, gave Pacific Schooners a preferential treatment by helping it financially, by coming to a commercial arrangement, and I allege, as I have always said from day one, that Government has bailed out Pacific Schooners by paying or contributing to getting the Tiare Tāporo released from being held up on a dry dock in Canada”, said Hakaoro.

Te Kave Kōrero believes that the Tiare Tāporo will arrive in Rarotonga in mid September given the distance from Panama to the Cook Islands.



Tikitour acquires Jasons South Pacific Islands

Tikitour, the Cook Islands unsurpassed distributor in visitor map guides, announced they have purchased the South Pacific Islands branch of Jasons, the region's leader in tourism map and guide books. Jasons creates and distributes travel information in New Zealand, South Pacific and Australia through print publications and their online websites. With this purchase, TikiTour has acquired the Jasons.com website and the Jasons publications for nine South Pacific Islands.

The publications include the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, with pending negotiations to launch in Solomon Islands and Tahiti.

"I'm excited to take over the Jasons South Pacific business as it is the missing link we needed to quickly expand our publishing footprint in the South Pacific," said Brett Baudinet, Managing Director of TikiTour. "I'm also passionate about the online opportunity with

Jasons.com which will help drive more traffic to our innovative online booking site TikiTour.com, launching at the end of the year."

Jasons extensive range of South Pacific travel publications are distributed throughout each of the Pacific Islands, at the Auckland International Airport, and globally through their free online guide ordering system, sending publications to potential travelers and travel agents in more than 52 countries last year.

"When Brett approached us last year to buy our South Pacific business it made sense on many levels," said Kelly Harland, Jasons General Manager. "Having an owner based full-time in the South Pacific also meant advertisers would receive the best service. Brett's family involvement in Island Hopper – the biggest in bound operator in the Cooks – and ownership of TikiTour maps capped off in our minds that he was the best qualified and financed buyer of the Jasons South Pacific brand. Jasons will continue to distribute Brett's suite of South Pacific products in New Zealand, which means his Maps and Guides will be in the hands of travellers before they arrive on island."

Through the acquisition, TikiTour has expanded their print publications to a combined 600,000+ maps and guides per year, reaching a potential 1.6 million visitors to the South Pacific Islands. "Print is very attractive in the Pacific, as

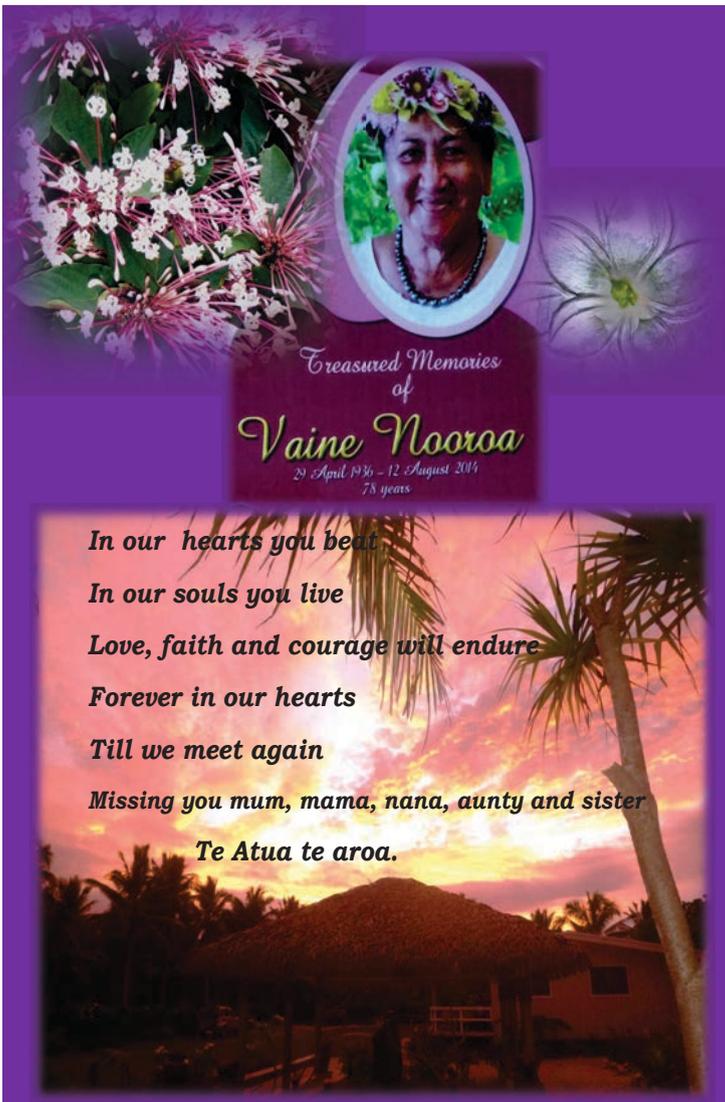
the Internet is not always easily accessible by our visitors," Baudinet said. "Plus you just can't beat physically holding a map or guide in your hands as you tikitour around our beautiful Pacific Islands!"

The acquisition of Jasons.com also allows TikiTour.com to leverage the 3 million visitors per year to Jasons websites. "The online space is a huge opportunity where we can continue to innovate and enhance marketing options for the South Pacific Islands by immediately converting readers to customers," said Baudinet.

The TikiTour.com website will combine accommodation, transport and activities into one easy reservation platform. TikiTour is also working on the launch of mobile apps and a reservation widget, which cannot be revealed in more detail at this time, in order to protect trade secrets.

Brett has first-hand experience with the marketing challenges that businesses face. "It is my goal to continue to grow the island publications and their distribution, while at the same time, complement everything we do in print with the new TikiTour.com website launching soon. Ultimately, my aim is to connect visitors with the local businesses who are integral to each of the islands."

Visit www.TikiTour.com to stay informed.



VAKA PRIDE COMPETITION



VAKA PRIDE COMPETITION IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FUNDING TOWARDS A COMMUNITY PROJECT IN YOUR VAKA!

VAKA PRIDE COMPETITION PROVIDES YOU WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF A REWARDING PROJECT THAT WILL BENEFIT YOU, YOUR VAKA AND YOUR COMMUNITY



PRIZES



- Most clean beaches
- Most clean streams and free of animals
- Least amount of mosquito breeding sites
- Best reuse of rubbish and recycle centres



- Least reported dog nuisance complaints & wandering dogs
- Least reported crime



- Best voted flower and/or vegetable gardens
- Best voted bus shelters
- Best voted public toilets

HOW TO ENTER

1. Get your Oire, Puna and community leaders together to select your community project
2. Contact Cook Islands Tourism to register your Vakas interest by Friday 21 August 2015.
3. Interested group applicants must complete an application form

For more information and competition details contact Noeline Mateariki on 29435 or visit www.kiaorana.cookislands.travel



Name: Tania Helen Bishop

Age: 22

Current Occupation:

Hotel Director (Aitutaki Village), Wedding Coordinator, Amateur Photographer

Hobbies & Interests:

Photography, deep sea fishing, water skiing, collecting quotes, literature and poetry, dancing, enjoying nature (health & fitness), meeting new people, socializing (enjoying time with family & friends)

Ambition:

To travel and see a broader spectrum of the world. Also keep developing and strengthening our family business and assisting in the health & fitness of Aitutakians (young and old) and maintaining and preserving our culture.

Representing: Aitutaki
Miss Aitutaki Village



Name: Felicia Rose George

Age: 19

Current Occupation:

Student - Studying Early Childhood Education at USP

Hobbies & Interests:

Felicia enjoys sewing and crafts, cooking and baking, dancing, learning new things, keeping active and is very passionate about teaching preschoolers - our future generation.

Ambition:

Felicia's aspirations in life are to become an Early Childhood Teacher here in the Cook Islands and to write Cook Islands Maori children's books. She also wants to serve a full-time vmission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Representing the island of Aitutaki and is Miss Crown Beach Resort & Spa.

Miss Cook Islands Contestants Group 2



Name: Adoniah Lanie Heimataura Lewis

Age: 24

Current Occupation:

Online Marketing Support - Cook Islands Tourism Corporation

Hobbie & Interests:

Adoniah is an optimist. She enjoys playing sport, reading books, goofing with friends and writing quotes. You may find her singing in the shower to Gladys knight, rapping to rich homie quan, or dancing to montell Jordan-This Is How We Do It. No matter the time of place Adoniah will have a contagious smile for you, or a goofy comment that will make you "LOL"

Ambition:

I believe in opportunity, I believe in determination, and I believe in overcoming the impossible. My whole life has been based around these three principles and I have been extremely fortunate to constantly be supported by my family and friends. So, my ambition is simple. I wish to create opportunities and a pathway that inspire and support young children and young adults in achieving their dream.

Representing: Rarotonga

Adoniah Lewis is Miss High Tide

Miss Cook Islands
Pageant Association

PRESENTS
**DANIEL
RAE COSTELLO
CONCERT**

QUEST ARTIST
**ALEXIA
RAE COSTELLO**

LUCKY DRAW!
Win:

- 1) A Weekend for two at Akapuau Holiday home. Includes a charlies paddle lesson and lunch getaway.
- 2) \$500 TAV Voucher

**THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST
@ AUDITORIUM
7:30PM
TICKETS \$10**

**AVAILABLE AT:
TAV, NATIONAL MUSEUM,
TARANI CRAFTS, MCIPA STALL
AT SATURDAY MARKET**



bluesky



SINCE 1891

50th



Te Maeva Nui 2015

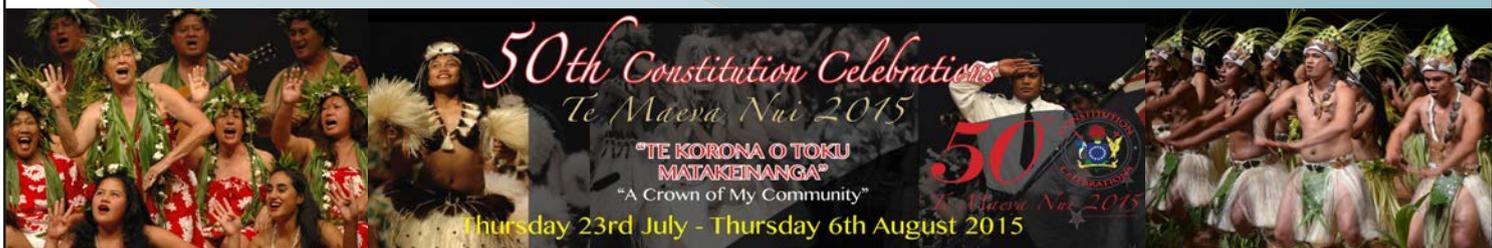
© Ministry of Cultural Development 2015

Te Maeva Nui 2015



PROUD PLATINUM SPONSORS OF
TE MAEVA NUI 2015

**PLATINUM
SPONSORS**



50th Constitution Celebrations
Te Maeva Nui 2015

"TE KORONA O TOKU
MATAKEINANGA"
"A Crown of My Community"

Thursday 23rd July - Thursday 6th August 2015



TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 10th August 2015

Maori language focus

Preliminary discussions regarding the Cook Islands Māori language was the subject of discussion, although briefly, on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 10th August 2015.

Presenter Tony Hakaoro announced that the Cook Islands Māori language would be the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 12th August.

“Ko te tumu tāpura ta tātou ka `uri`uri i tēia a`ia`i Ru`itoru e tū mai nei, koia `oki, ko to tātou reo Māori Kūki Airani”.

He added that a discussion panel would be invited onto the programme to debate the issues around language.

“Ka pati atu au i tēta`i au taeake kia piri mai, mē kāre, kia kake mai ki runga i ta tātou porōkarāmu, ko mātou i rēira ka `iri`iri ai, ka `akaariari manako ai, no runga i ta tātou tumu tāpura, karanga `oki to matou reo Ruatonga ē, e panel discussion”.

Hakaoro said that members of the panel would be Sonny Williams, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Chairperson of the Māori Language Commission, Tauraki Rongo, Presenter of the Cook Islands Community Radio Programme on Radio 531PI in Auckland, Jane Taurari`i, Cook Islands Māori Language Advisor at the Ministry of Education and John Herman, former Secretary of the Ministry of Education.

Hakaoro said that he is very concerned that children in Rarotonga are not speaking Māori at all.

He stated that since returning home he has not heard a girl or boy under the age of 13 speak Māori.

“Mei tōku `oki`anga mai ki to tātou Bāsileia, e tae mai ki tēia rā, tae mai ki tēia `ati`anga nei, kāre rāi au i `akarongo ake i tēta`i tamā`ine mē kāre ra, i tēta`i tamāroa, i raro ake i te mata`iti e 13, kia tuatua i to tātou reo Māori Kūki Airani. Te akāro`a, te akāro`a i to tātou reo”.

Hakaoro said that there appears to be a very bad habit amongst locals because they would start a sentence in Māori but then switch to English half way through and would continue speaking English until the end of the sentence.

“E mea akāro`a, vaitata rāi ē, kua ō tātou

ki roto i tēia mea karangā na to mātou reo Avatiu ē, `very bad habit`. Vaitata rāi ē, kua riro tēia ei `very bad habit` no tātou te `iti tangata Māori. Tēia te tū, i roto i ta tātou au pukapuka`anga, mei tāku i kite i tēia rā i roto i tēta`i `iri`iri kāpua, `akamata mai tātou i te reo Māori, kāre i pau, kāre i pau te tākiato tuatua, `uri tātou ki roto i te reo papa`ā, ē `akaoti atu i te rēira tākiato tuatua i roto i te reo papa`ā. E mea akāro`a, mea akāro`a.

Hakaoro stated that these days it is difficult to hear a local person speak a full sentence in Māori from the start to the end.

“Ngatā tikāi i te `akarongo i a tātou kia tuatua tātou i roto i te reo Māori mei te `akamata`anga ē `akaoti `ua atu te rēira tākiato kōrero, mē kāre, i te rēira `akakitekite`anga tuatua nā`au”.

“Tuatua mai tātou `āpa Māori oti `akaoti atu tātou `āpa papa`ā, reo papa`ā. Kāre e `āite`ia, kāre e `āite`ia. Ea`a i kore ei i a tātou, e rauka i te `akamātūtū i to tātou reo Māori kia tuatua tātou ē oti `ua atu tā`au

karere i roto i te reo Māori”.

Hakaoro stated that he accepts that at times speaking in English may be appropriate to clarify a point but he said that speakers of the language should not make it a habit doing that because it is regularly becoming a bad habit that our people are speaking half in Māori and half in English.

“Āe, e tika rāi, i tēta`i au tuātau, tāru mai rāi tātou i te reo papa`ā, kia takataka tō`ou manako, `āe, no te a`a, ka `āriki au i te rēira, auraka rā `oki tātou e `akariro i te rēira ē, ei `ākono`anga putuputu. Ko tāku tēia e kite nei i tēia au tuātau. Te putuputu nei tēia peu, mē kāre, tēia bad habit na tērā reo ai, tuatua `āpa `ua nei tātou, `āpa Māori, `āpa reo papa`ā”.

Te Kave Kōrero believes that having a panel discussion and a debate would highlight and bring awareness of the issues concerning the language particularly here on Rarotonga.

International Youth Day, August 12th 2015

The Youth Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is getting behind the #youthpower campaign via social media in support of this year’s International Youth Day theme - youth civic engagement.

“Youth civic engagement is about involving young people in political and non-political processes to improve community life. It is about expressing opinions on important issues facing the community and using those opinions to make a positive change – social media has changed how young people can engage with our communities,” stated Acting Youth Director, Charlene Hoff.

“As a social media user myself, I know the young people of the Cook Islands actively express their opinions on a range of topical issues. A scan of the past few weeks shows strong opinions by young people on Cook Islands pride in the journey of our nation, on the issue of drink driving laws and enforcement and, most recently as yesterday, involvement of youth in political parties.”

Young people are encouraged to support the #youthpower social media campaign by:

1. Stand proud, strike your #youthpower pose and catch it on your camera!
2. Post it on social media using #youthpower.
3. Tag your friends and get them to share their poses. #youthpower is stronger together.

Civic youth engagement by empowering young people to live up to their highest potential, to participate in their community by developing strong value systems, and cultural identity is a key priority action area of the Cook Islands National Youth Policy 2015-19 approved by the Cook Islands Government in June 2015.

Over the next month, the Youth Division will be monitoring Cook Islands youth involvement in the #youthpower social media campaign.

Our sea bed now open for exploration



SPC Legal Officer Amelia, GIS Officer, Marino Wichman, SBM Commissioner, Paul Lynch, House of Ariki President Travel Tou Ariki, Natural Resource Advisor, Darryl Thorburn, Natural Resources Minister Mark Brown, Advisory Board member Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Bishop Tutai Pere, Legal Officer, Alex Herman. Licencing and Admin Officer, Caroline Tiria.

By Charles Pitt

History was created on Monday 10 August 2015 when an important step in our progress towards unlocking the economic potential of our vast sea bed resource, was achieved.

Our sea bed contains an estimated 25% of the world's supply of cobalt within our manganese nodules.

Paul Lynch Commissioner of the Sea Bed Minerals Authority announced the opening of the tender process for 10 of 25 exploration blocks to interested parties internationally and tender information was uploaded on the SBMA website. These blocks have the most dense concentration of nodules. Each is 11,000 square miles in size and 15 will be held in reserve.

The announcement follows the coming into force of the Sea Bed Minerals (Prospecting and Exploration) Regulations on 28 July 2015, setting the conditions and fees for tenders.

While the presence of Manganese Nodules and their mineral content is well known, less is known about the rare earth elements in the surrounding sea bed.

The announcement was made in the conference room at the office of the Minister of Natural Resources Mark Brown before an audience which included staff of the SBM Authority, President of the House of Ariki Travel Tou Ariki accompanied by Puna Rakanui, the CEO of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation Tamarii Tutangata, Advisory Board Member Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Bishop Pere and media personnel.

It has been a long and at times stressful journey for the "believers" and testimony to the earlier efforts of dedicated Cook Islanders including former CIP government Minister Tom Marsters.

Earlier milestones had been the establishment of the Sea Bed Minerals Authority under Commissioner Paul Lynch, the passing of the Sea

Bed Minerals Act in 2009 and the building of capacity locally.

Lynch presented the Minister with a pate (wooden drum) symbolizing the sending out of a message to the world that the Cook Islands is now open to tenders.

Minister Brown congratulated the SBMA for the significant step in a long journey. He said the next step would be exploitation. Brown said he was pleased with the building of capacity. Five years ago there was no SBMA office. Since its establishment the SBMA office has worked on the regulatory aspects of the sector, the legal framework, looked at royalties, protective measures and adopted a systematic approach.

Brown said the CIIC would look after the business operation and he was pleased with the public consultations. He said it was a "soft" launch, no stampede was expected as demand for minerals is cyclical. It was

also important to protect the resource, our people and our environment.

In terms of the financial gains, he said protection of the Sovereign Fund is a generational consideration as in the long term, our people would benefit from the systems put into place now.

Lynch said CiIC would also manage our activities in a 75,000 square mile area in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone between Hawaii and the USA.

What will it cost to conduct exploration?

The fees payable by entities carrying our exploration are set out in Schedule 5 of the Regulations. Fees are payable in advance.

Application for an exploratory license

\$50,000

On being granted a license (five years)

\$100,000

Annual holding fee

\$75,000

There are other fees regarding various transactions.

Vaka Pride competition launched



By Charles Pitt

Organisations participating in the “Vaka Pride” competition announced the launch of the competition at the Tourism Corporation Office on Tuesday morning.

Tourism Corp, Police, Internal Affairs, NES and Health are supporting an initiative whereby communities within the Vakas can win funding towards projects

in their communities. \$5,000 prize money can be won for having the most clean beaches, streams, animal free streams, least amount of mosquito breeding sites and best use of rubbish and recycle centres.

\$2,500 can be won for having the least reported dog nuisances, complaints and wandering dogs and the least reported crime.

\$2,500 is also up for winning

for having the best voted flower and /or vegetable gardens, bus shelters and public toilets.

Communities within Vakas are encouraged to get together to select a community project and to contact Tourism Corp by Friday 21 August 2015 to register their interest and complete an application form.

The person to contact is Noeline Mateariki on ph 29435 or visit website www.kiaorana.cookislands.travel

www.kiaorana.cookislands.travel

Spokesperson for the Committee Metua Vaiimene said the Committee first met in June and while the official launch was on 1 July, it was decided to hold off until Te Maeva Nui was over.

The competition is to increase community participation in all activities. The plan is to run the competition three times per year and for the long term.

Tender process to begin

On 28 July, the new 47 page Seabed Minerals (SBM) Exploration Regulations were passed by the Executive Council for the Tender process for Exploration Licensing to commence on August 10, as approved by Cabinet on June 3rd. So the Cook Islands are moving along steadily to the opening of the Tender for Exploration, under the approved Regulatory Framework, since our national SBM Act was passed six years ago in 2009. This is in line with the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan to seek to diversify our future economic opportunities from our own resources, than being so reliant on tourism and aid.

On Monday, Minister Brown will officially open the 2015 Tender of 10 Manganese Nodule blocks, out of a possible 25 nodule blocks in our EEZ This is by him making the relevant Tender information available

live/on-line on our SBMA website.

1. The first step on the SBMA website is that interested Applicants will be directed to pay MFEM \$NZ25,000 for the Tender Areas Data Package from the SBMA.

2. Then, if interested further, they can make an Application for an Exploration License over one or more of the released Tender Blocks, under the process contained in the new Regulations.

3. The 4 month Application process occurs then and closes in December 11 2015.

4. Then the 4 month Evaluation process occurs then and closes in April 11 2016, with the involvement of the SBM Authority, the National Environment Service, local stakeholders and an Expert Panel of independent advisors.

5. Granting of Exploration Licenses can then occur after

that Evaluation process, with the making and acceptance of Offers, which will contain all related Terms and Conditions regarding Environmental, Financial and Exploration Work plan standards, including local participation opportunities.

6. Fees are set out in the Schedule to the Regulations, which are payable to MFEM and seek to cover all local Application, Assessment, Monitoring and Compliance costs.

These steps are based on best international advice. Key stakeholders have been involved along the way and consultations are continuing.

Further details- tender for exploration licencing

Pursuant to Section 51 of the Act-

A. TENDER AREA- Specific Tender areas of the Cook Islands seabed for Applications for Exploration licences in a Tender process in 2015/16 pursuant

to Section 51 of the Act. B. EXCLUSION- All seabed areas within 50 nautical miles of the coastal baseline of each island of the Cook Islands as being areas excluded from seabed minerals activity until further notice;

C. IDENTIFICATION- The area or areas of the seabed of the Cook Islands are described by reference to a block or blocks, including geographical coordinates and form of identification as required under the Act;

D. Pursuant to Section 52 of the Act, the Tender process is to be administered by the Seabed Minerals Authority; and

E. No other area or areas of the seabed of the Cook Islands are released for any other seabed mineral activity under the Act.

F. This Tender is to take effect from 10 August 2015 as approved by Cabinet on 3rd June 2015.

Cook Islands the place to work, stay and live, why would you? – Part 1b of 1

by Te Tuhi Kelly

Instead they allow themselves to be swayed against the other person because of their prejudices that this other person may show them up or heaven forbid go for their job. They also bow to interference by their political masters. How petty and pathetic is that, so they go for the person least likely to sway the boat and the other applicant who has more merit is shown the door. Instead of seeing these people as an asset they see them as a competitor for their job and therefore a liability. Their political masters also do not want a person who has a conscience, acts lawfully or questions a directive that is a conflict of interest. The concerns for a lot of returning Cook Islanders is the poor rule of law, the burglaries and the poor reputation of the police and the police hierarchy which they read about in the news media and social networks. For Cookies brought up in NZ and Aust on a diet of cheap and unlimited broadband, coming to the Cooks is a step back in history. Given the prolific use of smart phone, tablet and PC technology and the need to remain online, the expensive and capped internet in the Cooks is a huge disadvantage. Indigenous people like Polynesians are huge users of social media. They want and need to keep in contact with a wide circle of friends and an equally large circle of family members scattered around the globe. The cost of broadband is not going to reduce substantially because of our low base of internet consumers. Compare that to say NZ with a population of over 4 million and the uptake and therefore the cost makes ones mouth salivate with envy. Many have ongoing family commitments in NZ and Aust and they need to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of returning to their ancestral and not necessarily their birth homeland. Cook Islanders and most visitors to the Cook Islands are used to a high level of customer service from NZ or Aus and are shocked with the apathy shown by many businesses here. They make you feel like you should be privileged and honoured to be in the same shop as the shop assistant. Adding to their

shock is their dealings with government departments such as Police, Justice, Agriculture, Customs and Immigration. They are not made to feel welcomed and are subjected to an interrogation public service style.

So you add up all those points I raised and you can soon see that nobody in their right mind would return to work here without the bean counters doing some serious thought as to how to incentivise and motivate them to come back. This has been going on since independence day 1965 and the only saving grace is that those who return are usually the more mature Cook Islanders, those who are retiring here, setting up a business or seeking a quality of life for their families. But these people are few and far between as compared to the number leaving. So how do we get them to come here and once here how do we induce them to stay knowing all that we know about the disincentives.

Well this may come as a shock to you policy people as I think you should not be inducing Cook Islanders to come back as you will be bending over backwards to ensure that they stay and creating a messy situation that they may well exploit to the detriment of what you are trying to achieve. You strategists need to do some sort of cost-benefit analysis to ensure that we get the best bang for our buck. I suggest that this never happens, no one costs out the benefits both socially, economically and financially of having a foreigner or a returning Cookie in those high level roles. Doing so may surprise you and force you to relook at the benefits model that you may or may not have.

My opinion is that you offer no lolly scramble to induce them, no special benefits or conditions for them and no special contracts. If you do you will be sending out a message to those who stayed here in the Cooks when all others left that you do not value them and I guarantee you that you don't want to go down that road. Look at it this way; if you want Cookies to come back, then they come back of their own free will because they want to and because they see a future for themselves and their

family. They come back because they are the sort of people who are coming back for the right reasons and we want them to help us build a prosperous and viable nation. We should not be setting up a separate benefit system for one class of people over another, the ones that were loyal to the Cook Islands and stayed. Those that are leaving have already made up their mind to go and their minds are not in the Cooks anymore, they are already in NZ or Aus, so let them go as well. They need to spread their wings and experience what life will really have in store for them. You know, the high wages, the high cost of living, loss of culture, loss of ties back to the Cooks, loss of land entitlement, high rents, high mortgages and all this because you left the Cooks for a better life: think again people, it isn't as rosy as you think it is. In the early 2000's NZ experienced a brain drain in critical industries that was having a serious effect on the economy. NZ became the feeding ground for Aus and UK recruiters and for many graduating university students the only way they could pay off their student loans as well as earn huge sums of money as compared to NZ, was to go overseas. NZ companies were then faced with coming up with matching salaries or special benefits to lure these people home or to keep what they already had at home. This was a 2-edged sword because to pay these salaries, these companies at first absorbed the increased salary costs and eventually they had to pass on this cost to us the consumer. It also created a very competitive employment market which had salaries going through the roof, for I submit, very little return. Eventually the bubble burst and NZ'ers returned home and competition went the other way with returnees now having to compete for employers jobs in particular areas, a complete reversal of 5-years before. The other factor was that NZ had relaxed its foreign student restrictions and its immigration policies so that in the last 15-years there has been a huge influx of foreigners who have sent housing prices through the roof. Areas that were

Continued next page

Cook Islands the place to work, stay and live, why would you? – Part Ib of I

From page 18

once large farming plots became new suburbs and these suburbs needed to be connected to water, power and sewerage and new roads built and eventually this had to be paid for by increasing the rates for all Aucklanders to contribute to this expansion. So that was just a brief summary of the effects of policies aimed at enticing people back or keeping them here can have downstream effects that we do not even take into account when we strategise and agonise over bringing capacity back to the Cook Islands.

Some of our fundamental issues lay with the consultants or the so called strategists who are always looking outwards, to see what is happening on a global front. We think by doing this we can adopt some of the strategies that have worked for other nations. We either adopt some of those strategies in their entirety or we Cooky-ise them to fit our needs. What we fail to realise is that those strategies that have worked in other nations depend on having a strong and stable government, strong governance, a sound business infrastructure, a public service that is responsive and the will to put petty self interest aside. We struggle with all these aspects. We always assume that we need outside help or influence to show us how to do it properly. We hire non-Cookies for some of our major management roles in the public service. The premise is that they become the drivers of change and

provider a pathway for aspiring Cook Islanders to eventually assume those roles. It is fine in practice, the problem as I see it is that these foreign internationals experience culture shock and never properly recover. One of the first things they learn is to cover your butt and they soon realise that the politicians to whom some of them are accountable to, do not have the country's best interests at heart and nor do they have the foreigners interests at heart; they think on a micro-level, i.e. their village and community, that's basically their motivation. Never mind the rest of the Cook Islands or our nation as a whole; they are too beholden to their constituents to the detriment of the bigger picture.

As a foreigner you quickly find out that when the smelly stuff hits the fan, you are out front on your own. The foreigner finds this out when they apply Cook Islands law legitimately as in the ongoing saga of the non-tax paying grey power, only to find to their horror that the Minister has left them holding the bag. They are not schooled in applying traditional lore in their dealings with iti tangata and rikiriki and think that they are doing the right thing by applying English or Cook Islands law. They do not have the luxury of protection that they would normally receive under contract law in their own countries so the buck stops with them.

In Part II I make some Pandora box suggestions as to how we can improve our option taking for a better nation. Someone has to.

Count Down

By Lucianne Vainerere

The buzz feeding amongst the senior students now is the count down to how many more weeks of school we have left before we become free birds and start our own journeys into the big world. Our days of high school students will be over and we can't help the excitement build with maybe a hint of sadness to experiencing the reality of life beyond our barriers. Some of us will go to university and some of us will start working. Some may not be as fortunate and some may not survive. But there is a hidden beauty behind the unknown urging us to discover and that's what excites me. I'm sure most of us understand the hardships that will follow since we've already experienced working and having to pay for things, as well the heartache that will come with it for being away from family and close friends. But that's all part of life's journey. Our dog days will repeat itself all over again but this time we'll be ready. We'll be mature, independent and more willed to reach the wishes that our hearts have made. I strongly believe that high school has prepared us well. From rushed assessments to late nights and people dramas, apparently it's twice all of those once you step away from the little cocoon of safety we call home. If things go wrong it will always be there to shelter our bodies along with our families and friends who have been with us since day one. A shoulder to cry on, ears to listen and faces to remember when things are getting tough.

I hope that none of us leave unprepared for the unexpected that will follow in the years to come. It's our all part of self-management. If we are willing to leave the nest then we must be willing to do the work as well. It comes as a package. But afterwards we're always faced by temptation and that's the real challenge for all of us because giving in determines everything. It will determine our jobs and how long we will last, debts and how much we will owe and most importantly pain, and how much we will cause. It all comes down to you and the decisions and mistakes you make whether you learn from each and every one of them or not. But for the meantime, always remember to live, capture the moments, relax and let your mind roam while we're still young and half stress free. So here's to us, the ones who made it to the end, the ones who dropped out, the ones who have jobs, the ones who have left us, the ones with dreams, the ones with children, to the memories, the wild weekends, to our culture and everything in between, the late nights, the friendships, the deep and meaningful sessions and to all of us who will make a difference. Break free and go farther than you've ever gone.

Chooks extra

Shock, horror, woe chooks! Te Maeva Nui prizes have to be handed back because the wrong prizes were given out! This revelation surfaced after the prizes were announced. Odd that the daily wreck showed the "B" placings before the "A" placings! And why was there no outdoor telecast of the Constitution Park carry ons? Did Culture have the gear for an outside broadcast or are they still waiting for some friendly country to provide this gratis?

How to make successful decisions

Part 2

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this theme there are 8 important lessons or principles from the Book of Proverbs to help you make wise, sound and successful decisions that will benefit you, your family or your household. Four of these lessons were covered in Part 1 and the remaining 4 will be covered in Part 2. In order to make successful decisions, STEP ONE: PRAY FOR GUIDANCE – Proverbs 28v.26 (Living Bible) “A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God’s wisdom are safe.” You start in any decision making by getting God’s perspective. James 1v.5 says, “If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask God” and he went on to say that, “...the reason why you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask God for it.” (James 4v.2[c]) STEP TWO: GET THE FACTS. Proverbs 13v.16 “Every prudent (wise; careful) man acts out of knowledge.” Find out all you can to help you decide. Don’t assume that what people say is true. Think before you act. Proverbs 23v.23 reads “Get the facts at any price” When in doubt, check it out. STEP THREE: ASK FOR ADVICE Proverbs 24v.6 “The more advice you get, the more likely you are to win.” Proverbs 20v.18 reads “Get good advice and you will succeed.” Learn from the experiences of others. STEP FOUR: SET YOUR GOAL Proverbs 17v.24 (GN) “An intelligent man aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions.” In life, if we want to succeed we need to be clear in our minds what to do.

STEP FIVE: COUNT THE COST This is what you call a calculated risk. Ask yourself 1) Is it necessary? Is there any other way I can reach my goal without having to make this decision? Is this risk necessary? 2). What will it cost? Everything worthwhile in life costs. It costs money, it

costs time, it costs energy, it costs your reputation. 3) Is it worth it? Is the risk worth it? Will the potential profit be greater than the risk involved? Proverbs 20v.25 reads “Think carefully before you promise an offering to God. You might regret it later.” The point is: It is always easier to get in, than it is to get out. It’s always easier to get into debt, than to get out of debt. It’s always easier to get into a relationship, than it is to get out. It’s always easier to get into something than to get out of it. In the Parable of the Builder in Luke 6v.46-49 Jesus said ...no wise builder goes out and starts to build a building, a tower, without first budgeting and seeing how much it’s going to cost. Can I complete this thing? Can I pay for it? Life is full of risks. But there are ways, according to scripture, to minimize the risks in the decisions we make. STEP SIX: PLAN FOR PROBLEMS Proverbs 20v.18 (GN) “Don’t go charging into a battle without a plan.” Don’t ignore your problems, because they’re not going to ignore you. Be wise and choose to meet your problems on your terms and your time by planning for them in advance. Proverbs 22v.3 “A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.” Be sensible and plan for problems. STEP SEVEN: FACE YOUR FEARS We hate to admit it when we’re afraid. We think that fear is a sign that we’re weak. Fear, like any other emotion, has its purpose. One of the purposes is a warning light. One of the greatest fears that we all have is in Proverbs 29v.25 “Fear of man is a dangerous trap, but to trust in God means safety.” Fear of man is the fear of rejection. That is the fear that tends to be the primary motivator in many people’s lives. “What will

other people think?... What if I fail? What if I embarrass myself? What will they think... What if I don’t meet with everybody’s standards? ... What if nobody likes me?” That is a trap!

How do you face your fears? Proverbs 14v.26 “Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security.” You can’t eliminate fear. Move against your fears. “Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear.” Courage is when you do what you’re afraid to do. It doesn’t mean you’re not afraid. It means you do it in spite of your fear. STEP EIGHT: GO FOR IT! There comes a point of decision making when you must stop talking and start acting. It’s a point of commitment. Proverbs 16v.3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your

plans will succeed.” Once you’ve decided it’s worth the risk, go for it! There comes that point of no return when you just go for it! Nobody remembers the people who refused to risk. We only remember the people of faith. Faith is the bottom line in the Christian life. If you’re not taking any risks then your faith is useless.

How do you make successful decisions? 1) Pray for it. 2) Get the facts. 3) Ask for advice. 4) Set your goals. 5) Count the cost. 6) Plan for problems. 7) Face your fears, and 8) Go for it! Make that commitment! It is my prayer that you will find these 8 lessons or principles helpful in making successful decisions for your life, your family or your household. May you have a God blessed future! Te Atua te aroa!

The **COMPUTER MAN** Sales Parts & Service **RETAIL SALES PERSON**

The Computer Man is seeking to appoint a full time Retail Sales Person for its busy retail shop. The ideal candidate must be computer literate, should have two years customers services experience, both exceptional time management and customer services skills.

Hours of Employment

- * 43 hours per/week
- * Monday - Friday 8am-4:30pm
- * and Saturdays 9am-12pm.

Applications close Monday 17th August.

Interested candidates need to provide a covering letter and CV to the Store Manager; email aaron@thecomputerman.co.ck, PO Box 3099 or drop off in store. For more information phone 24979.

The Prime Minister's speech on Constitution Day must go down in history as the most simple, bland and rather boring topic of "family" to present to our people and foreign diplomats. Even a form 7 student from Tereora could have done better. So whatever happened to the hard and important topics like, our economy, domestic factors that influence depopulation and why people leave our shores, the decline of our agriculture sector, the growing but fragile tourism sector, the failing pearl industry up north, the high cost of living, the burdens of additional taxes on our pensioners and the list goes on. After being hammered week after week in the media, following the UN issue, PM Puna takes the easy and safe road out by selecting a neutral topic, like family. Of course it was Papa Arapati that got the "family" highly involved with good jobs in government. PM Puna is still doing the same, jobs for the Punas and for the "boys". Times haven't changed just the people in charge have, so let's keep it in the CIP tribe.



Can the Minister of Finance, Mark Brown come clean on just how much government received for the sale of the 60% share to Bluesky? Charges and costs have still remained high and even after the big talk about lower prices when Bluesky takes over hasn't materialized. The only sad change is that we have moved from one monopoly to another, but this time it's owned by Samoa and other foreign companies. So much for nationalism and local development for the Cook Islands. Finance Minister has opted to go for the money regardless of what the people are saying. A bit like the two Parliamentary petitions, Te Mato Vai and Purse Seining, all complaints from the people that is not being heard by government is it government for the people and by the people or government only for the minority and few CIPs?



One disgruntled telecom customer doesn't have anything nice to say about broadband, talked into switching over to a broadband package then after paying up front for one of the packages after two months they



pulled the plug when they ended up with a bill for \$6,000 plus. It seems while it wasn't being used the metre kept ticking over but TCI still demanded the money. It was the customer's fault despite the provider not disclosing details to prevent usage while not being used.



It seems the dany aribble's Fijian Indian reporter RK has found his niche after some costly trial and error. No longer required to pen anti Soccer stories RK is doing a fine job reviewing the movies.



One \$20,000 Te Maeva Nui sponsor isn't going to contribute again after being snubbed by Culture's Sunny Willie. CSW sent out the invitations to be the prize presenters to the winning teams. One \$1,000 sponsor presented at least seven prizes, but the \$20K one didn't even get an invite nor did other sizeable contributors, what a tossup and talk about poor communication by the faction groups in Culture.



First one half of the dithering Demo Dumb team didn't show up to the joint political leader's media conference at Elvis' invitation because hello Drolley said it was too quick. Secondly Smelly Heta at the advice of Dumber Drolly failed to show up for his 30 minute meeting with NZ Prime Minister John Key, this time Drolley said he diagnosed his leader as having some mosquito type fever (yellow fever more likely) the unwanted Jimmy Larger had

to step in and sub for the leader. Drolley withdrew Dumb Heta because he couldn't write a speech, so what are the Demos paying Dumber Drolley \$1200 a week to do apart from keeping his leader from making himself look and sound stupid? Just not good enough and a waste of tax payer's money.



Funny how the Dumb dithering Demo leader made a full recovery the moment John Key hopped on the plane out of here. He was spotted manning the barbecue at the Demo movie fundraiser at the Empire theatre. Again Drolley was nowhere to be seen, he doesn't work outside office hours nor does he volunteer his time like everyone else.



Party President wanna be Robert Graham lost big time only getting three votes then refused to accept a lesser position, got himself in a sulky huff and left, what a sour sook, he also got the message he won't be missed.



The CIP Conference went pretty much according to plan, the Bulldozer Bully Boy Heta's challenge for the Party leadership got well and truly comprehensively crushed by Elvis. Heta might be able to drive a bulldozer but he can't sing. While the numbers weren't announced out of the 56 voters Heta got just 18, a victory by knock out to the green corner. It was all smiles and handshakes as Heta congratulated Elvis

but it is only superficial, it's only a matter of time before Elvis dumps his corrupt Deputy for the compliant Kiriau Turepu. Watch the axe fall when all the delegates have returned to their respective islands, Elvis will renege on his comment Heta will continue to be DPM and Heta's blood will flow.



What a big shock it was for four time loser bully boy Heta who was campaigning for the CIP leadership right up to the voting, convinced he had it in the bag as was told to him every day by his CEO Ben Mosey, he was planning a big victory party in Nikao. The Mangaia and others who looked him in the face and drank his beer and ate his food had promised to vote for him but none of them did. A plan was hatched at the Mangaia hostel the night before and the switch was agreed to. In the uninformed outer islands Heta is Dr Jekyll but in Rarotonga he is Mr Hyde and it didn't take much convincing a vote for Dr Jekyll was really a vote for Mr Hyde.



The poor leadership of the dithering Demos is about to get further exposed as being inefficient and ineffective, while hello Drolley and his puppet Smelly Heta are lost in the light the MP for Tamarua is about to jump into the CIP Vaka with the blessing of the Mangaia CIP. Only hope for the Demos is to dump their Dumb and Dumbo clowns who are leading them into the political wasteland which is a very comfortable position for the unaccountable hello Drolley who picks up \$1200 a week to do nothing that requires cognitive exertion. How quickly the Mangaia have forgotten the huge legal bill her petition and appeals cost the Demo Party.

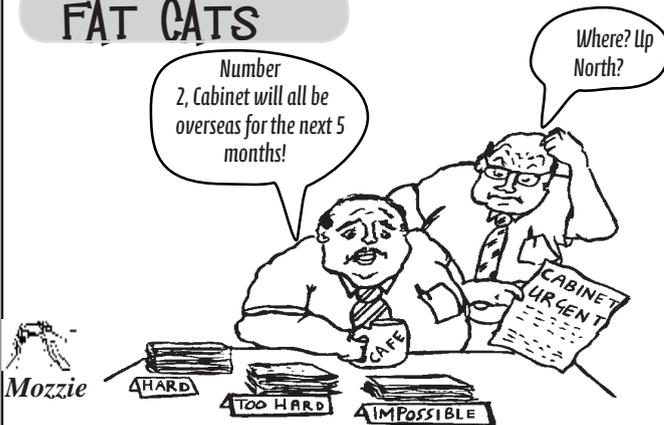


Whisper is after the Maeva Nui some island groups were grumpy over how their money was spent. There were some quite vocal meetings Big Red hears on the taro patch jungle pates. One northern MP came under some "heat."



Why is progress with the WATSAN project so slow chooks? For the funding available, so little has been so far achieved.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



VACANCIES

We are looking for part-time or full-time Housekeeping staff. Please call 25-800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

SHORT-TERM JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Due to high occupancies we have the following short-term job opportunities available for males and females over 18 years old;

- Housekeepers – to assist with the cleaning of guest rooms.
- Cleaners – to assist with cleaning in the Restaurants, Bars, Kitchen and Public Areas.
- Grounds man – to assist with lawn mowing, hedge trimming, raking of rubbish etc.

There are other opportunities available in addition to these depending on your qualifications and experience including Receptionists, Carpenters, Activities staff, Restaurant & Bar Servers etc.

These short-term job opportunities are available on a casual basis;

- 8am to 2pm with further hours available including evening shifts; and
- Minimum of three shifts a week any day of the week.

Please call 25-800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

We are wishing to buy any large flowering plants such as hibiscus. We will pay for removal and for the plants. Call Charles on 54-023.

We are looking for part-time or full-time Night Audit or Reception staff. Please call 25-800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

TENDER



**AIRPORT AUTHORITY COOK ISLANDS
Instrument Landing System Replacement**

Tenders are requested from suitably experienced and qualified contractors for the supply of an Instrument Landing System (ILS) for runway 08 at Rarotonga International Airport, Cook Islands.

The Contract Works include the design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the new Instrument Landing System.

Tender Documents are available from
Joseph Ngamata
Chief Executive

Airport Authority Cook Islands
Telephone 682 25890
Mobile 682 55890

Email: jngamata@airport.gov.ck

The same documents are also available from the government the procurement website at <http://procurement.gov.ck/>.

Written Tenders must be addressed to and received at the following address by 4:00 pm Monday 31st August 2015:
Airport Authority Tender 1 2015
Level 1, Control Tower Building
Rarotonga International Airport
Cook Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

Notice to the following Foreign Enterprise

Contact BTIB to confirm if you are carrying on business in the Cook Islands

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aitutaki Sunset Ltd | 8. Magic Reef Ltd |
| 2. Magic Gardens Ltd | 9. Rainbow Medical Clinic |
| 3. Poly Health Products | 10. Websters Cook Islands Ltd |
| 4. PKF Corporate Ltd | 11. Pacific Forum Line Ltd |
| 5. Aarty's Labour Hire Ltd | 12. Animal Export Cook islands |
| 6. Mako Marketing Ltd | 13. Futuranga Pearls Ltd |
| 7. Citywide Tree Service Ltd | |

Please contact the Business Trade Investment Board Office within 14 days phone: 24-296 or email charlie.rani@cookislands.gov.ck or btib@cookislands.gov.ck



www.cookislandschamber.org

The Chamber of Commerce Business Mentors will be visiting Rarotonga & Aitutaki during the week Monday 31st August to Friday 4th September 2015

If you would like a Business Mentor to assist with your business, or if you are interested in starting a business, please contact

E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck phone: 20 925
Applications close Monday 17th August 2015

**RESORT PLUMBER
JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Resort Plumber is responsible for the overall installation, operation, administration, repairs and maintenance and liaison with external contractors, consultants, suppliers and other trades of the following systems for a beach resort of 160 rooms and oversight of a further private island resort of 36 bungalows;

1. Sewerage including grease traps
2. Water Treatment including filtration, UV and RO experience would be an advantageous
3. Gas and Oil Reticulated Hot Water Boilers both storage and instantaneous system
4. Gas and Oil Kitchen appliances
5. Laundry washers, dryers and ironing rollers
6. Swimming pool filtration
7. Storm Water Drainage
8. Fire Hydrant System including hose reels and onsite fire fighting equipment
9. Installation of sanitary equipment including bathtub, spa baths, toilet bowl and wash basins.
10. Irrigation System
11. Solar Systems

In addition, the Resort Plumber would need to be qualified and experienced in;

1. Copper Pipework Installation
2. PVC
3. Pumping Equipment
4. Computerized Hotel Maintenance Management Systems

Please call 25-800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

PUBLIC NOTICE



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Social Impact Fund (SIF) Board Member

EOI's are now invited from CSO's, Private sector and Individuals who wish to be considered for the above. There are 3 positions available for one year.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on Telephone: 29378 or email: angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck Ministry of Internal Affairs www.intaff.whupi.com.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Wednesday 9 September 2015.



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Social Impact Fund (SIF)
Project Funding

The Cook Islands Social Impact Fund (SIF) is a contestable fund administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and financed by the Cook Islands and New Zealand Governments until June 2016. Registered Cook Islands Civil Society Organisations can apply to SIF for funds to deliver services to vulnerable groups in 3 areas: Gender equality (including domestic violence), Children and Youth, and Disabilities (including mental health, physical health and care for the elderly).

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on Telephone: 29378 or email: angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck, www.intaff.whupi.com, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Closing date for Project Funding Application is Friday 25 September 2015. No applications will be accepted after this date.

Cook Islands Jobs

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

Cook Islands Steel Ltd- Frontline Sales Person, Rarotonga

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

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

Kidz and Teenz Zone

By Tiana Haxton

It was a hot sunny day so I decided to check out the action at the Trade Day and the Kidz and Teenz zones. I brought along my younger brother and his friend. We strolled to town and walked through the trade day stalls. Plenty of colour, aromas and sounds. We passed the stage where a live band was entertaining the crowd before reaching the fences enclosing the kids and teens separate zones.

We walked around the fences for a little while observing the different activities available. In kids zone, a small car/quad bike/go kart was being driven around a track marked by large car tyres. There was a group of kids playing around on pedal bikes and cars or pushing each other's vehicles much to the enjoyment of the child seated on top, steering the vehicle.

The youngest children were satisfied with a large spider man bouncy castle and many were sprawled out on a mat playing with blocks. One tent was a hit with the girls as they could use a variety of plastic sparkly gems to decorate mobile phones, bracelets, head bands and clips and so on. In another, one could win a prize if they could hit a bulls eye in darts or hit a target with toy Nerf guns or bows and arrows. Young boys were seen playing with remote control trucks or simply passing a ball around. Helium filled balloons were sold and many were seen to fly up and away when dropped.

I moved on to the Teenz Zone bordered with large oil tanks, tyres and flags. In the shade of a tent, two girls were having a dance battle while kids ran around make shift walls with virtual guns (lasers tag). Unliscenced youths were kicking up the dust as they swerved at high speeds round a dirt bike track marked with large tyres on quad bikes, motor bikes and go carts. On the far side, elder teenage boys were having their go at paintball. There was obviously a lot of action.

After browsing, I paid for my younger brother to go inside kid zone where he and a bunch of his new friends ran around happily pushing each other in their pedal cars. Meanwhile, I decided to try out my skill in driving a go cart. I'm not the best driver. Unfortunately I crashed twice. The first as I became used to handling the vehicle. Then I decided to accelerate instead of brake and almost went through the fence! Even though that humourous mishap happened, I still thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Everyone there was enjoying themselves. We stayed till they closed and I sat to wait for my brother and his friends as they wandered around the now empty paintball fields looking for discarded balls. The Laser Tag technician was operating his laptop testing new games. We remaining kids were lucky and he got us to test them out for free. For a limited time, one had to hide among the make shift walls and fences before aiming and firing at the other players. No bullets of any sort came out but the gun and headset would detect any virtual shots aimed towards you and the gun would be unable to fire for a few seconds. It was a very enjoyable experience.

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Australia's forgotten goalscoring king



Australia's Reg Date

The history of football is littered with supremely gifted players who, for one reason or another, never attained the kind of enduring star status that their talent deserved. Australia's Reg Date is undoubtedly one such player.

A charismatic and colourful character off the field, Date's scoring record was nothing short of astonishing. From his debut as a raw-boned teenager in 1937 until his final outing in 1954, Date tallied an incredible 664 goals across club and representative matches.

On several occasions, Date has been referred to as the 'Don Bradman of Australian football', in reference to the Australian cricketer of the same era who, statistically, is unquestionably that game's greatest player. Yet the Newcastle-born Date, who passed away exactly 20 years

ago today aged 74, is barely known even in Australia's football community, let alone further afield.

Partly that is a result of the era in which he played, when - unlike today - media coverage was minimal. Also it was a reflection on the personality of a man who eschewed the limelight, following his own path. Date worked as a coalminer during the week, and was seemingly happy to play on weekends with the local team.

Date was renowned not only for his technique and finesse, but as a team man who played with old-fashioned sporting values. "Never did I see a footballer play the game more fairly," Jack Mathews, sporting editor of the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, said following Date's retirement. "Never did I see one more brilliant, one more

spectacular or dangerous to his opposition than was Date. Date was all those things, yet was always a team man who shunned every chance to shine as an individual."

This prolific striker reportedly turned down offers to play with Cardiff City and for Glasgow Rangers, in moves that would have pre-dated Marston's breakthrough move to the mother country by several years. Reg Flewin, captain of an England XI which toured Australia in 1951, said of the local hero: "He'd be a top-liner in an English team."

His rare on-field ability and off-field magnetic persona quickly made Date a hero. And the local boy-made-good flourished in familiar surroundings. He spent his entire career at his hometown club, aside from three typically prolific

seasons with top Sydney side Canterbury. One season in Sydney produced a record 73 goals, a tally that will surely never be surpassed.

Sadly, though, Date's international career in the national team colours was brief. While it spanned six years, he only played in just five full internationals, all of which came over the course of a single month during 1947. Date, however, typically displayed his ability for the exceptional by scoring after just four minutes of his debut against South Africa, en route to a tally of eight goals in his five outings.

World War II and the paucity of internationals played by Australia were contributing factors to Date's limited outings in the green and gold. But equally, according to his contemporaries, were his brushes with officialdom.