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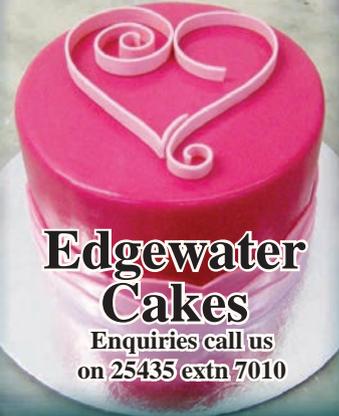
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# Lies, lies and more Schoonergate cover ups exposed

## Mike Henry claims money reimbursed to government

The emerging facts related to the Schoonergate scandal has revealed the depth of corruption the CIP government has embellished. The pretence and palatable excuses have failed to evoke redemptive behaviour which has left a disbelieving public simmering with repressed hostility. Lies and more lies have constricted the government's wriggle foot print.

The secrecy shrouded Cook Islands Party government has become a laboratory for corruption unprecedented in the history of Cook Islands self governance. The Prime Minister Henry Puna has led a revolution of persistently challenging the constraints and boundaries of our replica of Westminster democracy that has evolved into a President structured administration.

Unchallenged despite the regularity of his blatant flouting of the laws and the principles of good governance Puna Prime Minister has gradually evolved into Puna President and an autocratic one at that. In practise the modus operandi of the Puna administration is anything but a democracy.

Puna has ripped the heart out of our democracy by virtually relegating Parliament to the too hard basket of inconvenience. Once the active forum for the voice of the people through their elected representatives, silence is the CIP government's imposed fate of our House of Representatives.

Puna has a cabinet within



Mike Henry

the cabinet, he and his loyal devotee Mark Brown assisted by a third Minister the unelected appointee Richard Neves make up a tripartite unaccountable to only themselves. Puna has elevated himself above the law and out of reach of our lame duck watchdog institutions. When the CIP taxed local pensioners without the legislated provision to do so other than the intention

to pass a Bill before the House, a complaint to the Police returned an acknowledgement the CIP Government's taxing was unlawful.

It took six months for Crown Law and the Police to conspire then advise the complainant there was insufficient evidence to charge those responsible despite the fact government acted unlawfully. In the meantime the Bill got passed.

Puna's manipulation of the law imposing checks and balancing scales of the Country provide him with a badge of immunity that he abuses with an arrogance of an untouchable, even the Chief Justice Tom Weston is on record heralding Puna as being beyond corruption.

Puna is a Prime Minister in name but an autocratic President in practise because he is allowed to be, his fear filled peers and subordinates offer no resistance but blind obedience to the corrupt leader of a corrupt CIP government. Money and position are preferred to personal values and integrity, condoning compromise sees no wrong with the avalanche of corruption that is gradually being normalised and socially integrated.

Added to Puna's aura of secrecy and invincibility is the complete failure of the weak Democratic Party Opposition spinelessly led by politically impotent William Heather and the convicted fraudster Eddy Drollet. Neither of them inspires the masses they could administer a credible government. Had it not been for a fearless media doing the existing purpose of the tax funded Opposition the reality of the depth of corruption the Country is submerged in would be an unfocused blur.

The reality is Heather and Drollet are an asset and not a liability to the corrupt CIP government, their juvenile enactment of opposition politics is reminiscent of the BBC

*Continued next page*

TV comedy programmes Fawly Towers and the Two Ronnies.

This week more facts concerning the Schoonergate scandal have been unearthed by a relentless media. Last Friday 11 September 2015 Mike Henry was at Trader Jacks Bar claiming to anyone and everyone who would begrudgingly listen to him his PSL Company had reimbursed the advance payment. While believable the truth of Henry's claims need to be verified by Neves through a credible third party fully independent of the untrusting CIP government.

The smudged fact Neves lied to the people of the Cook Island on a live Radio Cook Islands broadcast about an advanced payment to PSL raises the question of what else has he lied to the public. In a response to Tony Hakaoro live on Radio Cook Islands the unashamed Neves said he was comfortable with his performance relative to Schoonergate, rather

than apologise for misleading the people he made every effort to justify his unethical stance. A lie is a lie and sufficient for the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas to suspend Neves otherwise the PSC should restrain himself from promoting his Public Service of Excellent mantra.

Neves' irregular contracting of an untried unregistered company was dismissed as an oversight by Henry but it was evident Neves is a grossly overpaid (\$6,000 a week) sloppy operator.

Now that the shareholding composition for PSL is clarified it is evident Mike Henry is the front man for this \$100 company that Henry said had 23 people mostly Cook Islanders investing \$1.6 million.

Can Mike Henry prove none of this money was sourced from the Peoples Republic of China investors who have connections to the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) through the

multimillion dollar Te Mato Vai or the Ministry of Marine Resources and fishing licences? Henry is the Chairman of CIIC who is influential in awarding stage two TMV contracts.

Puna's cousin, the newly appointed Business and Investment Trade Board (BTIB) CEO, Teariki Vakalalabure fudged the status of PSL, while he said quote "PSL is registered with BTIB as a foreign enterprise," he failed to say it "was," as when PSL got deregistered it no longer legally existed therefore it's Foreign Enterprise Licence ceased.

Lawyer Vakalalabure is well aware PSL is operating illegally unless they resubmit a new foreign enterprise licence application along with their \$750 fee. If Vakalalabure insists PSL's licence has never lapsed can he verify they fulfilled their annual obligations as required in their terms and conditions? As the former compliance manager Vakalalabure should be familiar

with PSL.

Mark Brown justified awarding the charter contract to PSL including the substantial advanced payment based on Henry's verbal due diligence because Brown moralised the CIP government preferred to support local companies.

Brown has a close relationship with his friend Mike Henry (They consider themselves CIP royalty) and is unconvincing in his hedging of the facts. Brown was the Minister for BTIB when PSL was granted their foreign enterprise licence on the 30 August 2012. So for what reason was he claiming PSL was a locally owned company who deserved government's help? No doubt Brown will refute an informant's claim that as the BTIB Minister at the time he suggested the PSL application be fast tracked and recommended for approval. Or will Brown feign a another seizer of amnesia?

- George Pitt

## Spread sheet of costs a shocker

During the just completed 50th Anniversary celebrations roving Ambassador Nick Henry's budget spreadsheet of \$250,000.00 was released and apart from the many questionable invoice payments, two stood out stronger than any other.

Nick Henry brother of Schoonergate kingpin Mike Henry was collecting a salary of \$1530.00 per week. This was both his gross wages and his net wages. Whether he will be filing income tax returns for his income will be interesting to observe and whether Neves even considers it important will be another. But most people will probably say that tax is not for the likes of the Henry's to pay, it's for everyone else instead to pay.

The other interesting invoice payment is 21 singers paid to fly here on Air New Zealand at a cost of \$38,991.10 that's an average of \$1856.71 per person. Were they paid while they were here?

At that amount it appears they all travelled business class. Are some of these the same people that went to Manihiki and increased Manihiki's population perhaps in preparation for a snap election? See spread sheet on pages 10 and 15.

## Radio Poll results

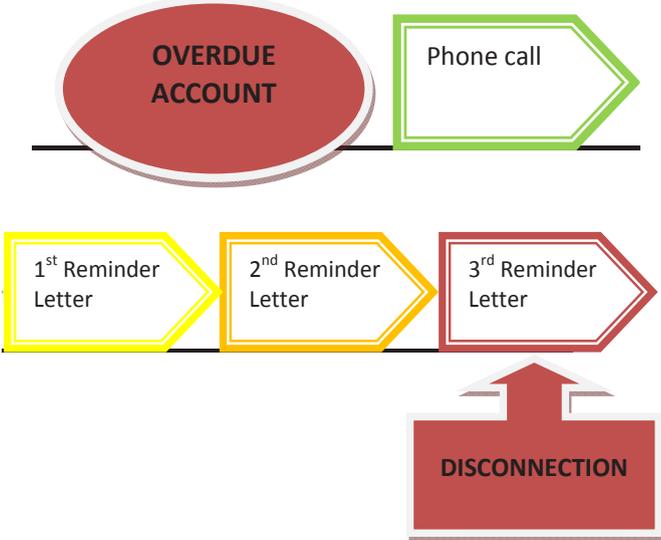
The results of a Radio Cook Island phone in poll conducted by Tony Hakaoro on Tuesday 15 September 2015 confirm the unpopularity of the Prime Minister Henry Puna. The results of the question who is the preferred PM? Teariki Heather 36, Henry Puna 11, George Maggie 2 and Nandi Glassie 1.

The results of the question who is the preferred leader of the Opposition? James Beer 26, William Heather 22



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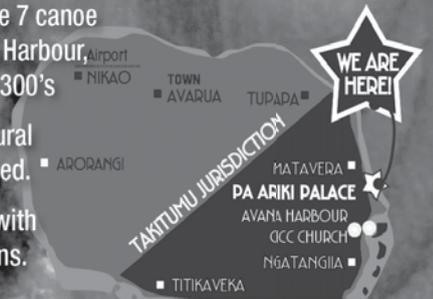
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# Dysfunctional Demos intoxicated with fantasy of government

The last thing the Democratic Party leader William Heather and his advisor Eddie Drollet should be wishing for is a snap election. Ever since their predicted loss at the 2014 polls a year ago the Demo leaders have been intoxicated with the fantasy they should be or they could be the government. That stupor still lingers by the sounds emanating from within the four walls of the Opposition's office bunker.

Demo supporters have had their hopes raised then levelled each time reality sets in and this week the confused Heather continues to reignite the empty dream of being the government. Nobody is listening to that nonsense, in fact it manifests how out of touch the Demo caucus has become, their persistent denial of defeat amplifies their stupidity, even their former leader Wilkie Rasmussen offers real time advice, "I think it is high time the Democratic Party pulled away from thinking that it can topple the government, instead it should focus on building up for a new general election."

Heather's mindless gazing into the mental wasteland reflects leaderless qualities required to inspire the shrinking party followers. His shallow utterance of expectation is evident by his exhortation, "we are going to our constituencies and asking them to prepare themselves."

One might justifiably ask Heather, "Which constituencies have you gone to? What are you asking them to prepare for?" Just a load of meaningless words to give the supporters and the wider public the impression he is in tune with the political temperature of the moment.

As long as the self serving Eddie Drollet is the chief engineer in the campaign bunker the Demos will continue to lose an Election. History is clear; everything Drollet touches is destined for defeat. What has Drollet ever

won for the Democratic Party? Drollet is an election grim reaper, a defeat specialist that does not discriminate against being defeated, the unaccountable Drollet could quite happily spend the next ten years in the opposition, it's a crime that pays to the tune of \$1,200 a week plus perks, a pretty good salary for being present 20 hours a week.

Before Heather tells the constituencies to prepare themselves what preparation is he and his advisor doing to prepare for a so called imaginary snap election? What exactly is Heather doing to earn his \$87,000 minister's salary? What exactly is Eddie Drollet doing to earn his \$1,200 a week salary? Both are being paid from taxpayer's money.

What possesses these two spongers to think they are capable of winning a possible snap election let alone being the government? Heather will not voluntarily step down as the leader of the opposition because he is convinced his appointment is ordained by God, his brother the Deputy Prime Minister has equally deluded spiritual illusions he is a God appointee. Psychiatrists call it grandioso schizophrenia.

While fantasisers Heather and Drollet are hell bent on turning local politics into a circus of idiocy the Cook Islands Party think tank are intelligently building the framework then the details for governance longevity.

The Demo structures are weak and dysfunctional; their huge post election debt forces the caucus to lead by example in their fundraising efforts that hissed and roared for a couple of weeks then fizzed out, accentuating the underlying problem the Demos have, they lack staying power to sustain purpose, the only thing they can sustain is losing the government. In effect they are directionless without vision.

With their credibility and



Heather-smiling all the way to defeat



Drollet- the catalyst for defeat

integrity compromised, upon what can they build their party? They have discarded their foundation blocks of their past successes for the self indulgent greedy pursuits of the inner circle manipulators. The Demos have dived into the same cesspool of corruption their opponents the CIP parliamentary wing has. The culprits of contamination have a firm grip of the Demo party and until their influence over caucus is dealt with the next elections will be the desolation of the Demos to the third party status behind One Cook Islands.

With four MPs unlikely to stand again if the CIP survive a full term, who are the replacements the Demos are going to build the party upon? The Demos have lost the plot and are unlikely to re gather as a political force to be reckoned with by adopting a wait and see game plan, the Eddie Drollet ideology that Heather has fully embraced. Both are seriously intellectually incapable of making things happen, Drollet's skills revolve around make sure nothing happens.

If William Heather is banking on his power hungry brother Teariki's plan B being executed to become government that's another

muddled illusion, the DPM's threats in Cabinet of consequences if Mac Mokoroa and Sonny Williams are not reappointed to their Heads of Ministry positions is a Manihikigate copy cat but not enough to move Puna into crisis red alert response. Puna should simply evict Heather from cabinet then offer the vacancy to the waiting in the wings Tetangi Matapo the Demo MP for Tamarua.

DPM Heather is a bully boy windbag, full of hot air but incapable of materialising his threats. Any thoughts of the four times loser T. Heather forming a coalition government with the Demos will not get the full support of their caucus.

The writing on the wall cannot be any clearer; the Demos are doomed to failure as long as Heather and Drollet are at the helm.

The Cook Island Party's corruption and the highly dysfunctional Democratic Party have triggered the political climate change opportunity for a third Party namely One Cook Islands to emerge as a genuine threat to both of them, then that's a story for next week.

- George Pitt

## Vesting orders and occupation right

Vesting orders and occupation rights were the subjects of talkback discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 9th September 2015.

A panel, on the programme for the second time in as many weeks, offered opinions and advice from a legal point of view.

Panel members were, Tingika Elikana, lawyer and Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Wilkie Rasmussen, former politician and lawyer, and Tere Carr, land agent.

A distinction between a vesting and an occupation right order was imminent given the number of queries and questions raised on the programme.

Speaking in Māori and describing the difference between vesting and occupation right orders, Elikana said that under occupation right, there is no limitation as to the size of the land, but under a vesting order, land can not be more than a third of an acre.

“Ko te mānga tuke ua i roto i teia nga tukuanga tika, i raro i te irava no te tikaanga noo ki runga i te enua, kare oki i tatuangaia na e a`a te maatamaata i te potonga enua ea? Ina, toku manako, ko te akakoroanga maata oki i te reira, mei taku i akakite, i topa mai teia takainga no te akakoroanga o te angaanga tanutanu, kare i reira i akakotiangaia na. I raro ra i te vesting order, kua akakotingaia, e, auraka e tere atu i te tai toru o te eka, karanga tatou mei te koata eka te maatamaata i te potonga enua kia rauka i a koe, kia vest ia i raro ake i toou ingoa”.

Contributing to the discussion Carr said that a vesting order also gives right to the holder to build a dwelling so in that respect it is like an occupation order.

“Te aiteanga, kua vest ia normally me tukunaia tai vesting order, ko te share, ko te share a tera tangata kua taruia ki runga i tetai atu enua rai e te tumu i vest ia ai,

te akakoroanga no te akatu are no te noo ki roto so i tera tua aiteite rai a ia ki te occupation right”.

Carr added that a vesting order is usually in favour of a land about 1,300 square meters and can be succeeded by the holder’s children and grandchildren and continuously so long as the land is being occupied.

“Te vesting order mei ta Papa Tingika i akakite atu, kua akatakaia rai te maata so ka aere mai paa thirteen hundred square meters, around about there, tera vesting order as well ka rauka i te kopu tangata, te metua i orongaia tera vesting order kia succeed a ia e tana anau e tana anau so ka rauka i tera potonga enua e mutukore ua atu as long as e anau taau e anau mai nei e, e te other thing is, kia noo rai ki runga i tera potonga enua”.

According to Carr if one has not lived on the land for five years the Court can revoke the vesting order like an occupation right order.

“Now, me kare koe e noo ki runga i tera potonga enua e rima mataiti, ka rauka i te Akavaanga i te takore i tera vesting order so again ka oki mai ki runga i te nooanga ki runga i te enua, aiteite rai ki te occupation right. Te akaraia nei e tatou, me kare koe e noo tinamou ki tera ngai e taau anau, ka rauka i te Court i te takore, ko te vesting order rai because ko tona puapinga no te are kia noo te kopu tangata ki roto”.

Rasmussen contributed to the discussion stating that one difference between a vesting and on occupation right order is that under an occupation right order if one does not live on the land the family can claim it back and a family member can apply to have the occupation right changed into his or her name. But once a dwelling is built the 60 year term kicks in.

However Rasmussen said that no one is permitted to run a business or make money under an occupation right order nor build rental properties to make profits.

“Tetai tuke paa i te vesting order e te occupation right, te occupation right, me kare koe i runga i te enua i roto i te rima mataiti, ka oki tera enua ki roto i te kopu, ka akatanotanoia akaou, e tikaanga to te kopu kia tiki akaou mai kia mea, me kore, tetai mema i roto i te kopu tangata i te apply, tieni mai ki a ia teia occupation right. Me patu ra koe, kua oti rai, kua noo oki te ono ngauru mataiti, kare oki e rauka i reira i te kopu tangata i te tomo akaou mai tamanamanata. Inara, ko te au mea ou oki o teia tuātau kare te occupation right e akatikaia e kia kimi moni koe ki roto, ine, ko te au akatakatakaanga teia. Kare mei te mea e, e `ā o ou occupation right patu koe e au are ei rent noou, kare, kare e akatikaia”.

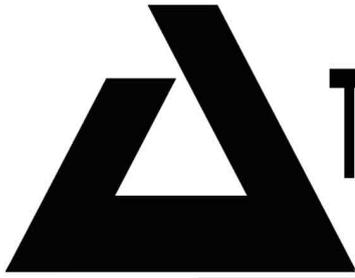
In offering advice Tingika said that if one wants his or her land to go to the children and grandchildren the best option is to obtain a vesting order, not an occupation right order.

“Inangaro ua ra oki au kia marama koe, mei te mea e ka inangaro koe i te enua kia aere ki te metua tane, ki tana tamariki, e tana au tamariki e mutukore ua atu, te manako meitaki, e apai koe i reira ki raro ake i te vesting order, te vesting order, ki raro ake i te vesting order, kare e tau te occupation right kia taangaangaia, inara, e tu tangata pouroa oki to tatou”.

A caller queried as to why the Court has not been making vesting orders as opposed to occupation orders in relation to applications for house dwellings.

In explanation Elikana said that lawyers are bound by their clients instructions and if the instructions are to obtain occupation right orders then lawyers cannot alter or amend the application to one of a vesting order.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks members of the panel for their expertise and advice and thanks callers too for ringing in with questions and opinions.



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# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 11 Sept 2015

## Papa Rongo Taia receives BEM

*Te Kave Kōrero apologises to listeners for not having a programme on Friday 11th September.*

*Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, was in Penrhyn on 11th September with the Queen's Representative, His Excellency Tom Marsters, as His Excellency's Media Officer.*

*The Queen's Representative and his delegation had travelled by a New Zealand Army Hercules to Penrhyn to present a Queen's Birthday Honour's Award.*

*The recipient, eighty three year old Pāpā Rongo Taia of Te Tautua village, was awarded with a British Empire Medal (BEM).*

*Tony Hakaoro filed this report in lieu of a Te Kave Kōrero story for 11th September.*

*Kia orana to Te Kave Kōrero listeners. My apology that I was away last Friday 11th September so was unable to present Te Kave Kōrero that day.*

I consider myself very fortunate to accompany the Queen's Representative, His Excellency Tom Marsters, and his delegation to Penrhyn last Friday. I was the QR's Media Officer on the trip. I am so grateful to His Excellency for the opportunity and for choosing me as his Media Officer.

Also accompanying His Excellency was his wife Tuaine Marsters, his Secretary Tony Browne, His Aid Senior Sergeant John Strickland, Penrhyn MP Willie John and his wife, his Chaplain Rev. Tinirau Soatini and businessman Arama Wichman.

There were nine of us in His Excellency's delegation to Penrhyn.

The trip to Penrhyn was to bestow the British Empire Medal (BEM) upon Pāpā Rongo Taia of Te Tautua village for his services to the community.

For the QR the trip was also an opportunity to visit a relative's resting place.

Before departing for Penrhyn His Excellency said in Māori that his great grandmother who was originally from Te Tautua village in Penrhyn, returned to die in Te Tautua, and that he wanted to see her grave.

"Tai o toku tupuna vaine, e tamaine Te Tautua, kua oki a ia ki Te Tautua mate ei, kua tanuia a ia ki reira. Te inangaro nei au kia kite au i tona menema".

On arrival in Omoka we were met at the airport by Penrhyn's Executive Officer, Vaine Wichman, Assistant Mayor, Pāpā

Fana Ivirangi, Island Councillor Pāpā Saitu Marsters and others.

We rested in Omoka overnight and departed for Te Tautua village the following morning on Saturday 12th September.

Te Tautua village is about seven miles north of Omoka. The only way to get there is by boat. We travelled by barge and there were about 25 of us on the barge that morning.

The trip across the lagoon from Omoka to Te Tautua took about 40 minutes. The lagoon was relatively calm and there was a nice breeze on the water.

On arrival we were welcomed with a chant and a guard of honour for His Excellency and his wife.

We were served with nice and chilled coconut drinks while waiting for the commencement of the proceedings.

Arriving in Te Tautua was very emotional for me. I was born there and I haven't been back for years, in fact, for over 40 years. I was about five years old when my parents brought us to Rarotonga so I couldn't remember much of the place.

But one thing I noticed about Te Tautua, it is so clean and tidy and although it was noticeable that there were no more than 100 people in the village, the people there looked so happy and so peaceful with their environment.

When everyone were ready we were escorted to the Sunday school hall where the award ceremony took place and where eighty three year old Pāpā Rongo Taia, a relative cousin of mine, was formally awarded the British Empire Medal.

Pāpā Rongo Tama Taia was born in Penrhyn on 1st August 1932.

His involvement in the community included serving as a deacon in the local CICC church, becoming an officer of Marine Resources, a teacher as well as principal of the local primary school.

Pāpā Rongo had served the community, especially the people of Penrhyn, for over 50 years.

At age 83 Pāpā Rongo is still committed to his church and community initiatives in his village of Te Tautua.

Pāpā Rongo is the paternal grandfather of former Kiwi and New Castle Rugby League player, Zeb Taia, who now plays his rugby league in France.



Following the award ceremony His Excellency was introduced to 91 year old Māmā Hareunu Riki in Te Tautua.

Through Māmā Hareunu's daughter, Māmā Urungakura, my relative aunty, His Excellency was then shown where her great grandmother, Tepou Tinioi, was buried.

It was a very emotional time for His Excellency, at long last, he was able to see her great grandmother's resting place.

As the saying goes, 'every good thing must come to an end' and so we were back on the barge leaving for Omoka.

Saying goodbye to everyone in Te Tautua was very emotional. We had just met them and in just under five hours we were leaving them to go back to Omoka.

There were tears and as our barge started reversing and moving away from the wharf and out to the open lagoon, the locals started singing a traditional 'himene taranga' song. More tears followed hearing the harmony and beautiful traditional singing.

I can never forget that special feeling. One minute I was so happy seeing the place where I was born, then the next minute, I was leaving, realising of course, that I was leaving my birth place and heading back to Rarotonga.

For me it was a beautiful journey and a very emotional and rewarding experience. Congratulations to Papa Rongo my bro.

I'm so grateful to His Excellency, Tom Marsters, for appointing me as his Media Officer with his delegation to Penrhyn.

Meitaki maata Your Excellency.

Kia manuia  
Tony Hakaoro

## *Congratulations to Tina Rere*

**C**ongratulations to Tina Rere who is Woman of the Month for September. She is a brave, humble person with great potential, loving and caring to others, good supporter in her community, organisations and also to her family and friends. She has always put her faith and give thanks to God first in everything she does. Whatever she does she always have the Lord as her guide. She is quiet person and loves to be around her family and friends.

She is know by others as Mama Tina or Aunty Tina

Born: 18th November 1952, in Auckland, New Zealand to Cook Island parents who are now both deceased. She was the eldest of seven siblings with four sisters and three brothers. She also have two feeding sisters and two feeding brothers.

Her favourites is the most important thing in her life is her family, children, grandchildren, immediate family and extended family. Like every Mother they come first.

Her hobbies: She enjoys and loves reading, listening to old time favourite music and cooking her special curry recipe.

Her education: she attended Titikaveka Primary School and went to Aitutaki to attend Vaitau Primary School and then to Aitutaki Junior High school, now known as Araura College.

Her beliefs and spirituality is by accepting the LORD in her life, this has opened door to her Christian life. Spiritually she is full of love and care and has



Congratulations Aunty Tina, Woman of the Month of September

great faith in the community work she does.

She is a committee member for the Arorangi Girls Bridge and now is the Chairlady for the company. She is an Ekalesia member of the Arorangi CICC Church, a Sunday school teacher for Akaoa/Murienua Sunday school. She is a strong supporter in whatever role she is in.

The Akaoa/Murienua Hupa

Mania Concert in May which was to raise funds for our meeting house brought in the children and parents together to show their support and enjoy the show as one big happy community family.

Her goals is to see her granddaughter Cecilia Matanoanoa Rere graduate from studies at Auckland University and see her reach her 21st Birthday and achieve her goals.

She looks forward to traveling to visit her many families overseas. What's important in her life is her family, grandchildren, extended family and her community.

What's important to you: - women are the backbone in everything.

Family, home, church, community and the nation- May GOD BLESS THE COOK ISLANDS AND KEEP US SAFE.

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# Pacific prepares for strengthening El Niño

The United Nations is urging Pacific Islanders and their governments to prepare now for a looming El Niño emergency with the potential to affect more than four million people.

"Climatologists are now unanimous in predicting that we are heading for a strong to severe El Niño event in the coming months. Some modelling is now suggesting this El Niño could be as severe as the event in 1997/98 which is the worst on record and brought severe drought to PNG and Fiji," United Nations Resident Coordinator, Osnat Lubrani said.

"Now is the time for communities and governments to get ready for the extreme weather changes El Niño usually triggers. A number of countries are currently in the process of implementing or drafting drought plans and the United Nations stands ready to support these efforts by providing

coordination and technical advice."

Over the coming months, countries on the equator can expect more rain, flooding and higher sea levels presenting challenges for low-lying atolls already feeling the impacts of climate change. The more populous countries of the Pacific south west will see conditions get drier from now on with some eventually slipping into drought. El Niño years characteristically feature a longer cyclone season, with more intense cyclones affecting a wider portion of the Pacific

"El Niño has the potential to trigger a regional humanitarian emergency and we estimate as many as 4.1 million people are at risk from water shortages, food insecurity and disease across the Pacific," Sune Gudnitz, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for the Pacific said.

"Countries including Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon Islands are already feeling El Niño's impact with reduced rainfall affecting crops and drinking water supplies. Drought conditions would further complicate the humanitarian situation in countries that are just emerging from the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclones Pam, Maysak and Raquel." and collecting rainwater are both critical for farmers to feed their livestock and crops, as well as for families to use in washing, cooking and drinking. Communities are being warned of potential changes to tuna fisheries and farmers are being encouraged to plant drought resistant crops which can adapt to survive long periods of dryness. Multi-storey cropping systems, mulching and drip irrigation are also effective ways of stretching limited water supplies. Watering crops late in the day can also reduce

evaporation and the installation of 'Tippy Taps' can improve hygiene and reduce waste.

A range of health issues may emerge in an El Niño year making good hygiene and mosquito protection both crucial.

"Floods and droughts can precipitate outbreak of number of diseases including diarrhoea, leptospirosis, typhoid, by exposure to contaminated water or decreased hygiene due to water shortages. There may also be an increase in vector-borne diseases including dengue, chikungunya and zika virus due to increase mosquito vectors and increased temperatures that can enhance reproduction and transmission of these viruses. Malnutrition because of low or poor quality food supplies is also a problem we need to be aware of," said Dr. Liu Yunguo, Director of Pacific Technical Support and Representative in the South Pacific of the World Health Organization.



## THANK YOU NOTICE

### *Pa Upokotini Ariki* **25<sup>th</sup> CORONATION JUBILEE**

*I would like to express my warmest appreciation and gratitude to everyone who attended and supported my 25th Coronation Jubilee Celebration on Monday 27th July 2015.*

*A special Thank You to the Orometua of the village, The Queens Rep and his wife, The Maoate Rangaitira, The Tahitian Delegates-King Taimui & his Party, The Hawaiian Delegates-King Tumutu Teheuheu & his Party and to the Maori Delegates.*

*Thank you to my Family & Friends, Rangaitira, Mataiapo of the Takitumu District for a job well done and also to Pitt Media for their media coverage and those whom contributed food in support on this memorable day.*

*"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers"—Philemon 1:4*

# Gossip-mongering refuted

The Prime Minister Henry Puna wants to reassure the public that there is no truth in any gossip about the country's political situation, or the stability of the government.

Claims of desertion by any Cabinet Ministers or Members of Parliament are speculative rumour-mongering on the part of those, who stand to gain from their own selfish desire for power, the

Prime Minister said on Tuesday following

Cabinet.

"Everyone should realize that the Cook Islands Party administration is stable, and proceeding with its election mandate, and agenda to govern."

"We are committed to serving the people until the full term of office is reached in 2018."

The Prime Minister says the CIP Government will continue to remain firm despite the ongoing attempts by the Demo Opposition and One Cook Islands to cause chaos and disruption.

"It's time to expose this for what it is. That's their tactics, and only theirs. That's not how we operate and that's not what we represent as a governing party."

The public should disregard these attempts to destabilize because it simply stems from a deeply-held resentment over losing, and a loss of mana in the face of what the government is steadily achieving, the

Prime Minister says.

## Signing of TIEA between the Cook Islands and the Kingdom of Belgium

The Cook Islands signed its 21st Tax Information Exchange Agreement ("TIEA") with the Kingdom of Belgium in Brussels on 21 August 2015. The signing signifies further progress by the Cook Islands in meeting our international tax obligations.

The Minister of Finance, Honourable Mark Brown stated that "these signings are an important step for the Cook Islands in demonstrating its international cooperation on tax matters and to the principles of transparency and effective exchange of information", and that "the entering into of this agreement is further evidence of the Cook Islands' commitment to the Global Forum's efforts in creating a level playing field in the international arena, encompassing the principals of transparency and effective exchange of information for tax purposes."

This signing makes a total of 21 TIEAs entered into by the Cook Islands, and demonstrates that the Cook Islands has become a leading jurisdiction in the fight against tax evasion and avoidance. The TIEAs allow for these countries and the Cook Islands to request information from each other where a specific taxpayer is under investigation, and where there is reason to believe that relevant information is held in the other country.

Recently the Cook Islands underwent a Phase 2 Peer Review by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, which resulted in a largely compliant rating, confirming our advancements and good international standing in this area.

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# Restaurant of the Year Awards 2015



In a series of stories about the participants of the Cook Island Restaurant of the year 2015 we will be visiting restaurants exploring the atmosphere and sampling their Cook Islands style menus, paired with matching wines/ beverages:

CONTESTANTS for Restaurant of the year

2015:

**MANUIA BEACH RESORT, SAILS RESTAURANT, PACIFIC RESORT MURI, NAUTILUS RESORT, LITTLE POLYNESIAN RESORT, PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI .**

Book at any of the above restaurants to be a judge and go into the draw to win one of seven "Dinners for two" at the above

Restaurants. Help decide who will become the Cook Islands Restaurant of the Year 2015 by dining and voting at the above establishments.

Join us for the Awards Dinner with live entertainment, welcome drinks and show at 18:00 on Saturday, 10th Oct. \$ 60.00 per person @ The Islander Hotel

## World class dining at Nautilus

A world class dining experience may seem like a tuff ask on a small island in the middle of the pacific but the Nautilus Resort Hotel can boast just that.

The mood was set as we entered along the coral paved walkway framed with tropical gardens. We were greeted by a friendly smile from our hostess Maria and a tempting aroma from the kitchen that signalled what was to come. The restaurant buzzed with excited energy and was comfortably full with seemingly satisfied patrons.

Our hostess and head maitre d' Dominic Johnson flawlessly delivered the design of their island style menu paired with matching wines. The first course was a local kina shooter (sea urchin) with sake, lime and chef's secret herbs served in a shot glass

set in a freshly shucked kina shell packed with crushed ice adorning a crisp celery stick. The tangy, sweet and sour notes balanced the kina perfectly. We were instantly reminded of the flavours of the sea. This course packed a flavour punch that cleansed the palette and had us wanting more!

The second course of mouth wateringly soft braised pork belly infused with lemongrass coupled with the crunch of pork crackling and crispy sumac crumbed eggplant was enhanced by an organic herb salsa and carambola (starfruit) sauce. The dish was artfully displayed and married well with the paired Jules Taylor Pinot Gris which offered a refreshing hint of ripe peach and nectarine flavours with a subtle nutty and spicy character.

Eager to see what Chef Mike Fosbender had in store for us

we were not disappointed. An artistic masterpiece of steamed Palmerston parrot fish fillets wrapped in rukau (local spinach) stuffed with smoked pumpkin puree and red pepper nestled in a kumara roesti basket which lay balanced on tender snake beans. The menu describes the accompanying sauce as a decadent vanilla curry sauce and upon tasting it realised its complicity was prescribed to compliment the subtle flavour of the parrot fish and accompanied ingredients. Our dish was paired with the Giessen 2014 Marlborough Chardonnay, the Stone fruit and citrus aromas combined with an oak complexity creating a depth of character to the entire course.

Finally the finale being the dessert of which my wife perfectly described as "WOW". There were

so many highlights to this dish. My favourite was the ingeniously incorporated the Cook island delicacy pawpaw poke. This was layered in between a coconut custard bavarios that literally melts in your mouth. Added to the crunch of a pawpaw seed tuile biscuit and an out of this world banana and walnut semi fredo and tangy dragon fruit coulis we couldn't help but ask for another to take home and devour. The Frangelico liquor tempered our desire as we lazily sipped on hazelnut heaven to warm our palette.

Well done Nautilus for capturing and inspiring the essence and flavours of local cuisine and ingredients. There have not been many times in my life when I left a restaurant feeling humbled. This experience for us was priceless and boasts "World class cuisine".



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# TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 14th Sept 2015

## Ui Ariki trip to Australia and NZ

The Ui Ariki trip to Australia and New Zealand and the land meetings called by the Ui Ariki were the subjects of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 14th September 2015.

The President of the House of Ariki, Te Kaumaiti Nui, Tou Ariki, and the Clerk of the House of Ariki, Puna Rakanui, were the guest speakers interviewed on the programme.

Speaking about the Ui Ariki's trip to New Zealand and Australia Rakanui said that firstly, the House of Ariki will celebrate 50 years next year. The trip is to meet the eighty thousand Cook Islanders living in Australia and New Zealand as the House of Ariki has never visited them in fifty years.

"Ko te akakoroanga o te tere, te mea mua, a teia mataiti ki mua, ka rima ngauru ia mataiti o te Are Ariki o te Kuki Airani. Kare rava ratou i tere ana e Are Ariki, i te aravei i to ratou iti tangata, i Nu Tireni e Australia, no tetai rima ngauru mataiti, e tae mai ki teia ra, kare ratou i aravei ake. No reira kua manako ratou e, e tai ngauru tauasini tangata i te Kuki Airani nei, e varu ngauru tauasini e noo mai ra i ko, no tatou teia iti tangata, e mea tau kia aravei i a ratou".

Secondly, in reference to the question recently posed by the Prime Minister in asking what direction is the Ui Ariki setting itself in terms of the welfare of the people, Rakanui said that under the Constitution, the House of Ariki is responsible for our Māori culture and traditions, and that's the first thing. The second thing is that the House of Ariki is also responsible for land issues, and thirdly, to be aware of the general welfare of our people, the Cook Islands people. Rakanui said these have been assessed and examined in the past but owing to some difficulties the House of Ariki has not been, or is, unable to address them.

"Te rua, penei i rongo ana tatou i nga tuataua o te utianga reva, te manakonakoanga i te uianga a to tatou Parai Minita, e, eaa te kaveinga ta te Ui Ariki e manakonako nei no ratou, no te tupaeanga i te oraanga o to tatou iti tangata? Tony, i raro ake i te ture, e te Papa Ture Metua, kua orongaia ki te Are Ariki, kia tiaki ratou i ta tatou peu e ta tatou akonoanga Maori, te mea mua tera. Te rua, kia akara ratou i te turanga o te enua, e te toru, kia nakirokiro ratou, e, te peea nei ra te oraanga o to tatou iti tangata,

iti tangata Kuki Airani. Ina, i roto i te au mataiti tei aereia mai, kua akara ana, kua uri ana ratou i teia au manakonakoanga, e au, karanga au e, e au tapekaanga tetai i a ratou. Kare e rauka i a ratou i te rave i teia au angaanga".

Speaking about lands Rakanui said there are eighty thousand Cook Islanders living overseas and that they have every right to be concerned with land issues in the Cook Islands. He said that in every land decision it is appropriate to seek their decision or input, Cook Islanders in Australia and New Zealand.

"Te mea mua, me tuatua tatou no runga i te enua, varu ngauru tauasini to tatou iti tangata e noo mai ra, e tikaanga to ratou ki te au oneone i roto i to tatou Basileia. Me tuku te tika no te akateretereanga i to tatou au enua, e mea tau e, kia ui katoa tatou i te tika o to tatou iti tangata i Australia, e, i Aotearoa, eaa to ratou manako e tae mai ki teia ra, ko te maataanga o te au ture e atuaia nei".

Furthermore Rakanui said that the Ui Ariki wishes to ask our people as to whether they realise what is happening at the moment. He said that our people are aware that their occupation rights are wrong in terms of building their houses onto the lands.

"Te mea mua, te anoano nei te Ui Ariki i te ui ki to tatou iti tangata me kua marama ratou eaa te angaanga e tupu nei. Kua kite ratou e, ko to ratou occupation right, kua taravake te reira i te akatuanga ratou i to ratou au are ki runga i teia au enua".

Asked whether this is a responsibility of the Ui Ariki, Rakanui said that perhaps the question that needs to be asked is, whether this has affected Cook Islands lands, because if it did, then the Ui Ariki is responsible.

"Penei ka ui katoa tatou e, kua arapaki ainei teia au angaanga ki runga i te tu o te enua, no te mea, mei te mea e, kua arapaki teia au angaanga ki runga i te enua o te Kuki Airani nei, e angaangaia na te Ui Ariki".

And when asked why land issues are being put to Cook Islanders, Rakanui said that it is one way of strengthening Māori culture in terms of land governance and useage.

He said there are conflicting issues with regards to the administration of the law and that we have forgotten that we have Māori culture and traditions (to resolve land issues).

"I te akamatutuanga i ta tatou peu Māori, no te akateretereanga e te taangaanga i te enua. Te kite nei tatou i teia tuātau, kua ta'īī tatou ki te akanoonoanga a te ture. Ngaropoina i a tatou e, e akonoanga Māori katoa ta tatou. Na te ture i `akata'īī i a tatou. Ina, kare e rauka i a matou i te karanga ki to tatou iti tangata i konei e, teia te tika.

Rakanui said that existing occupation rights must be protected because the Court and staff, and lawyers, are suggesting that the occupation right be changed to vesting order. Te Ui Ariki does not agree.

"Te mea mua, kia paruruia te au occupation rights tei oronga takereia no te mea e, te karanga nei te Akavaanga e, te karanga nei te au aronga angaanga e, e te roia, tau teia au occupation right ki te vesting order, kare te Ui Ariki e `āriki. Kare te Ui Ariki no te mea, te vai ra tetai au akameitakianga akapuapingaanga i te enua, kare i te koata eka, raro ake i te vesting order e koata eka ua. I tetai au enua kua tere atu i te `āpa eka ka akapeea tatou i teia au tangata?".

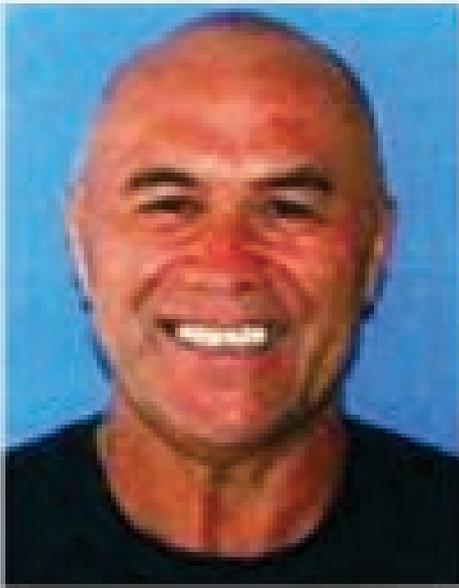
Te Kave Kōrero believes that discussions regarding land issues must be ongoing because at the end of the day it is one subject that is very close and sensitive to the hearts of Cook Islanders especially land owners in Rarotonga.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Te Kaumaiti Nui, Tou Ariki and Puna Rakanui, as well as two callers, for their contribution to the programme. Meitaki maata

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# Restorative Justice in the Cook Islands – the case for ‘akanoa – Part 2 of 2



by Te Tuhi Kelly

**T**hus the reliance on legal jurisprudence and precedence is in direct contrast to traditional lore and the process of akanoa.

In many instances the benefit of winning by litigation is outweighed by the emotional and spiritual costs of those left at home to their own devices, whilst at the same time having feelings of hurt, injustice, longing and sometimes feelings of revenge against those who have taken your loved ones life, stolen from you or assaulted you. I want to make it clear that I do not provide a definitive world view of Cook Islands traditional or customary lore; rather I want to provide an alternative but parallel process and outlook for discussion of a mechanism for restorative justice that has its roots in Polynesian custom and practice. Hence this article is based on my own extensive professional and business background in Aotearoa using the process of whakanoa to deal with the emotional trauma of crime.

The process of ‘akanoa’ as an aspect of restorative justice and in the context of this article is concerned with healing the parties affected by a criminal act back to a state of near normality. This involves resolving issues at the level of lore on an emotional level. The downstream effects of trauma arising from a criminal act can be catastrophic as performance at work declines, health

suffers, domestic tensions can rise, and all because some dick decided to drive while they were intoxicated and ended up dead or they killed someone close to you and left you with unresolved conflicting emotions. For those who are killed in bike crashes due to no fault of their own but the fault of someone else, there is no getting away from this tragedy; there is a huge outpouring of sympathy and eulogy through social media, news and social and community networks locally and internationally. There is also anger, disbelief, venting and threats and this is actually quite normal in the scheme of things because this is what we do. For the victims of such a tragedy the legacy of a lost one will be with them for the rest of their lives. For those who did the deed the impact is only short, remorse comes after, in the light of day and unfortunately the horse has already bolted.

Who bears the blame and the shame for this young dickhead who despite knowing that he (it’s usually a young male) shouldn’t drive, ignores advice or if the keys are taken off him, gets the spare key or another bike and rides off to his doom and unfortunately dooms someone else. I submit that there are a number of people who should have done more about it. The people whom he drank with, the bar that sold the beer, the so called best mates of his that should have done something, they all had a hand in this tragedy that was about to unfold. So what happens when the incident happens and he kills someone or is killed, they all rush onto Facebook, radio, TV or other media outlets and say what a great sportsman he was, a fantastic model, a special person he was, taken from us suddenly. What a bunch of hypocrites, you should be ashamed of yourselves; this dickhead has gone out and killed someone because he was allowed to drink himself insensible to such an extent he was not in control of himself. We all know people like this, your mates, cousins, acquaintances, yet you do nothing about this behaviour. You should all bear the akama of this failed life because you each could have done something about it, yet did nothing.

Before I arrived in the Cooks in 2010 I was working for the NZ Ministry of Justice and one of my roles as an HR Consultant was restorative justice through whakanoa. I was involved in a case under the NZ Employment Relations Act 2002 in which a young Court official had brought a personal grievance case against her manager for workplace bullying. After an in-depth investigation and interviewing witnesses, he subsequently confessed to the case and was given a final written warning that would have meant his instant dismissal if he repeated the offence. However whilst the case was settled under NZ Employment law, the young official as well as her workmates were not happy with the manager and asked me to deal with the office concerns through a process of whakanoa or restorative justice. I arranged for whakanoa to take place and it resulted in the young official and her workmates venting their concerns at the manager, telling him how he had affected her life as well as relations in the workplace. In fact, both parties ended up in an emotional reconciliation and laying to rest the issues between them in the workplace. The result was that the issues were dealt with under law and lore and the workplace heaved a huge sigh of relief that this had been dealt with under tikanga. It also highlighted another area of concern and that was managers being placed under tremendous performance pressure with very little support to affect changes in their divisions due to Ministry of Justice realigning their priorities. Change management speak for getting rid of people.

So how do we get these parties together on an emotional level? In the one corner we have the dickhead who got drunk or stoned, went out on his/her bike, lost control and killed an innocent person who was minding their own lawful business. Well don’t expect the Court or the lawyers to step in and suggest such a step, they have very little idea about restorative justice through traditional or customary lore. They only know law, they know how to interpret and apply law but ask them about restorative justice and I can guarantee

*continued next page*

you that their eyes will glaze over. You are embarking on a sensitive subject that for them is like asking if ghosts exist. Law can be low effort and high return whereas lore is high effort and low return. Lawyers struggle with processes and mechanisms outside their legal profession, they don't deal very well with unknowns because it opens them up to be challenged or appealed. Not for them the esoteric, or the emotional or spiritual conundrum, give me the facts according to law and I can deal with it. In fact I would guess that you would be hard pressed to find anyone in the Cooks who has had experience in akanoa.

We need two elements for akanoa: a process and a person who knows what they are doing. These two elements are very easy; the challenge is in the detail. For brevity sake I shall provide an overview of the process. For the process, you need both parties to agree to the akanoa process. Then you need both parties to agree to the outcome of akanoa. It is of very little value if either of the parties turns up just to go through the process without committing to an agreed outcome. You want an acknowledgement from the accused that they have mucked up badly and brought their iti tangata into akama and that they are willing to pay the price for their stupidity. The aggrieved iti tangata need to have their feelings known to the accused and what they see as a compensatory act of contrition for what the accused has done and put their family through. The parties are not to leave the process of akanoa until a consensus has been reached and an outcome that is agreeable to both sides thrashed out. It is an emotionally draining experience because it takes in the highs and the lows of an emotionally charged atmosphere. It revisits the past actions that led to

trauma for the family and touches sensitive nerves and feelings of loss. The process of akanoa needs to be managed by someone who has a very good understanding and depth of knowledge in tikanga and lore as well as applying the Papa 'a science disciplines of psychology, anthropology and sociology with a Christian belief overview, especially in the Cook Islands.

Why am I writing about this stuff you might ask? Well, you tell me where the rule of law has actually worked in favour of the victims and their families and I'll show you that there is always two sides to a story and for the last 130 years or so, the balance is heavily weighted in favour of those who commit crime. For two reasons, one is that the law is incapable of redressing emotional wrong and two the victims are invariably left with no way to voice their hurts or their anger at the injustice of their loved ones being taken away prematurely. For many iti tangata the hurt is too emotional and too deep and they do not have the energy or wherewithal to try and get themselves in a decent frame of mind to do anything about it going forward. So they suck it up and bury their feelings and try to make the best of it. Meanwhile the person who killed their loved one is on probation or has a short term prison sentence then they are free to go about their business happy in the knowledge that they did the crime and they served their time. Pity the iti tangata who are still living the crime and the time.

Hence I wrote this article to because I believe that there is merit in my proposal that there should be a mechanism for restorative justice for aggrieved parties to treat with each other on a basic human emotional level that runs parallel to English law.

## Letters to the Editor

### The domineering attitude of some papa'a

Dear Editor

My one sided "sick" radio talk back mentioned by accountant Mike Carr in Saturday's CI News certainly lacked spark, variety and depth because the two tax officers from MFEM that visited Grey Power members in the homes "chickened out" and refused to appear on Kave Korero programme with me to give a balanced argument on the air. They avoided the possibility of being grilled by host Tony Hakaoro on their bank raid and asset seizure message.

Mike came to the rescue. I appear on television, radio and in the media talking about nothing else but Grey Power and what we stand for. If you don't like what you see, hear or read about Grey Power that's your problem. I know Mike Carr is a papa'a and he knows I am a Cook Islander. But for a papa'a to tell a Cook Islander to leave his homeland and go and live in Greece while he a manu rere occupy my Tauranga is something Tou Ariki and the house of Ariki and Koutu Nui should be very concerned about. The domineering attitude of some of these papa'as who have that piece of paper in their pockets.

Dennis Tunui  
Turangi

### We want laveta

Dear Editor

Listening to laveta Short on TV the other night, I thought that's the sort of people we need to run this country. Who is Mike Carr? Who does he think he is to tell Grey Power what to do? He is another like Neves.

We do not want foreigners telling us what to do. We want people who know how to run a country. Foreigners employed by government do not have feelings for local elderly Cook Islanders. That's why we want someone like laveta Short.

Mike Carr, many elderly locals do not share your views. Dennis Tunui and Don Reid know what they're talking about, they are locals. Government must employ more of our own people.

Pensioner

### Air points

Dear Editor

Air points gained by politicians and government workers when they fly overseas on business should not be credited to these individuals air points accounts but they should be credited back to a central government account where they can be used for future official government travel.

The taxpayers are paying for these airline tickets and so we the taxpayers should be the ones who stand to benefit from any accrued air points.

As long as there are lucrative incentives to be gained by travelling it will be difficult to reign in excessive and unwarranted travel.

Don Carlaw

**New Hope Church**

Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

# What next for Puna, a Legacy or Statesmanship?

*In issue 779, we commented on PM Puna's transition from the shadow of his mentor Sir Geoffrey Henry to become his own man, a leader in his own right. This week we comment on what remains for Puna to achieve.*

*By Charles Pitt*

There are goals leaders desire to achieve at the operational level to advance the country and there are goals they aspire to achieve at the higher, more personal level to ensure their country will remember them.

Now in his second term as Prime Minister, Puna will focus on securing a third term in office for he has yet to cement in place a legacy which he can claim to be truly his. Something the people can point to and say, "Puna achieved that."

However, the course of politics being what it is, and somewhat unstable, Puna's window of opportunity narrowed recently when the political playing field became more uneven and volatile. He may not be leader for long.

The infrastructure and renewable energy upgrades cannot be said to be a legacy but a necessity which was long overdue. Puna's legacy if there is one, will have to be in another area but as yet that area is unclear.

Latest events seem to suggest Puna may instead attempt to achieve that elusive but lofty status of Statesmanship.

It is not a status conferred by any committee or body but one conferred by your peers internationally in recognition of outstanding efforts at international level.

Whether Cook Islanders will recognize Puna as a Statesman is another matter. Firstly Puna must convince locals that he is not out to attain such a status for selfish reasons. He has to demonstrate and convince locals that recognition by his international peers confirms a high level of support by locals for his efforts to portray the country as a fitting partner in international affairs.

In this regard, opportunities have ensured Puna is at least off to a good start. Over two terms as Prime Minister, he has traveled extensively overseas, met with world leaders such as the Chinese and French Presidents and by all accounts he has impressed during these engagements.

In his first term, Puna hosted the Pacific Form Leaders Summit which the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton attended.

In most of his international encounters with prominent world leaders, Puna was part of a group of Pacific Leaders. In this situation, with all Leaders seeking to impress, Puna will have had to make some effort to ensure he was noticed. Not easy when you lead a very small, non-independent, developing country. Also, much harder when you do not have an imposing physical presence like the Samoan Prime Minister and the almost seven foot tall Niuean Prime Minister.

In terms of State visits, while Puna has made a State visit to China, he was not the first Cook Islands PM to do so. Former PM Robert Woonton was accorded the first State visit to China. Puna is also just the second Prime Minister to be invited to make a State visit to New Zealand. The other was his mentor Sir Geoffrey Henry. There have only been two previous State visits to NZ, both by Sir Geoffrey.

While the NZ Prime Minister has used the occasion of the 50th anniversary of self government as the prime motive for extending an invitation, Puna used the opportunity to focus the limelight on himself by not including anyone from the opposition in his delegation. Tactically, this was not a good move considering the CIP came to power on just 38 percent of the vote. Puna should have noted that when John Key travels throughout the Pacific, his delegation always includes members of the opposition.

Hard on the heels of his NZ visit, Puna attended the Polynesian Leader's Group (PLG) meeting in Auckland and the Forum Leader's Summit in PNG.

Some CIP say it would have been unlikely that Sir Geoffrey in supporting Puna, had in mind the coming reform phases and the leadership style and ability required to implement these. Sir Geoffrey's priority was likely to have been to select someone who was acceptable to many long standing CIP supporters.

With Puna being a "thinker" and his DPM Teariki Heather being a "doer" Puna, as it transpired, was the right person to navigate the country through the complex policy and legal frameworks needed to secure large overseas loans for the infrastructure and renewable energy phase. Whether Puna can steer the country through the next phases of reform remains to be seen but would be an outstanding achievement if he did.

During Puna's watch, the country has had increasing contact and dialogue with other nations. The country has engaged in an increasing number of international meetings and arrangements. Diplomatic activity has increased. Internationally, Puna portrays the country and its people as; developed, intelligent, progressive, educated, knowledgeable, peaceful and a fitting partner for the international community. Puna assimilates easily and comfortably with other leaders.

Domestically, and detrimentally, Puna has to rely on others whose performance frequently creates embarrassments and awkward drawbacks. If Puna is to ensure the success of the remaining reforms he may have no option but to become more "hands on."

With the economic reforms and recovery the next phase, Heather's ability as a "doer" stands him in better stead to lead the country through this phase. Heather knows a bit about business, running a large company on high stress levels and getting things done. The economic recovery and reform phase with its aims to establish businesses and exports, requires a fearless "doer." Where the CIP is concerned, that's Heather. While he can hold his own locally, on the international scene Heather lacks diplomatic "graces" and would have to rely heavily on others.

At present there is no CIP MP capable of taking the country through all remaining phases after economic recovery. The next two phases are political reform and social reform. For these phases, a different type of leadership style will be required.

Given the current political climate, it is possible these phases may be overseen by a coalition government.

For the CIP, Atiu MP Nandi Glassie may come close as he has a "policy thinker's" mind. Glassie's track record as a Minister and his international reputation is on the rise however he needs the right support. More than once Glassie's peers have elected him as their spokesperson for the region, a role which fits his personality and manner like a glove.

Only one other MP is considered to have the ability to take the country through the three remaining phases and that is One Cook Islands (OCI's) Teina Bishop. Bishop is an innovative businessman who has not had to rely on government contracts to survive. He has a record in politics of more than 17 years and his social connections are strong.

To return to the question, "Why did Sir Geoffrey support the passing of the crown to Henry Puna?"

At the time, 2006, Sir Geoffrey backed the best horse in his stable. Puna is still at the helm but only just.

Challenges have come from Heather and there may be other challengers.

Glassie is coming more to the fore publicly. Bishop as part of a coalition could be an outside chance. Then again Mark Brown could come from the back and run over the top of all of them. Puna may groom Brown as his successor.

Sir Geoffrey gave up his Takuvaine seat for Mark Brown. Perhaps Sir Geoffrey saw Puna as a "winning" "horse in the short term but saw in Mark Brown a suitable "leadership" horse in the long term.

Mark Brown has very good CIP credentials which would be his greatest advantage over all other challengers. His day will certainly come.

Brown will however need to curb his enthusiasm, exercise more patience. He wants to execute everything at warp speed but has to remember a Vaka always leaves port at low speed.

# How To Be Saved God's Way

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I was speaking on this theme to commemorate "Fathers Day" and I want to bring an article of encouragement that applies not only to the Fathers, but to everyone else. The main scripture reading is in Acts 16v.25-34. The focus is on verse 30. The jailer brought Paul and Silas out of their prison cell and asked them "What must I do to be saved?" Although the question by the Jailer who is a father was meant for himself? But the response in v.31 was "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household." God does not purpose just the Father to be saved, but rather the Father and all the members of his household....the family....everyone! According to our reading, in order for us to be saved, these are the 'conditions'.

1. BELIEVE ON HIM and be saved.v.31 reads "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,..." The problem is many people believe in so many things. But the Bible is very clear "Believe on Him and you will be saved!"

2. RECEIVE HIM and be saved. John 1v.12 reads "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." Romans 6v.23 reads "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. COME TO HIM and be saved. Jesus said in Matthew 11v.28 "Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest." He further said in John 6v.37 (GN)"...I will never turn away anyone who come to Me." The sick came to Jesus and were healed, the blind came to Jesus and their sight was restored, the sinners came to Jesus and were forgiven.

4. TRUST IN HIM and be saved. Psalm 2v.12 reads "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." Our friends do fail us. Even our brothers, sisters, relatives, even our bosses at our work place do fail us. But the good news is Jesus never fail us. Even on the Cross on Calvary He never fails us.

5. HEAR HIM and be saved. God said in Matthew 17v.5 "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" God did not say 'hear Bahaula, or Buddah, or Tangaroa, but rather "This is My beloved Son Jesus Christ whom I sent to bring you back to Me, and in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him and be saved!"

6. LOOK UNTO HIM and be saved. In Genesis 19 the angels of God said to Lot "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters..because the Lord will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah..and escape to the mountains otherwise you will be destroyed." But, the love of the things of the world was so strong inside of Lot's wife that she looked not unto God but rather to the things of the world and she was destroyed.

The challenge for us is, 'To whom are we looking unto, to be saved? Are we looking unto the things of the world, or unto Jesus Christ.' The jailer asked Paul and Silas "What

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



must I do to be saved?" The reply was Look Unto Him and be saved!

7. SUBMIT TO HIM and be saved. Romans 6v.13 says that we are to "...submit ourselves to God.." The one we submit to, is the one we serve. I encourage you to submit yourself to the Lord Christ Jesus and be His servant, rather than submitting to Satan and being his slave. Verses 33-34 of our reading says "And immediately he and all his family were baptized...

and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household."

Friend, this is the turning point in the life of the jailer and his household. Rather than continuing to serve Caesar which is a symbol of Satan in the world, he decided to serve God through Jesus Christ and to live in submission to Him, and Him alone.

May you have a God blessed life through Christ Jesus – te Atua te aroa.

# My great grand-mother Mama Lingi

By Hayley McNabb

**M**y Great Grandmother Mama Lingi Pitt is still living strong and well. I'm not allowed to mention her age because she is getting tired of people asking how old she is. She has four children, three boys and one girl. Uncle Charles, Uncle Trevor, Uncle George and of course my Nana Shona and she says she's got nearly three of them are on their pensions and then there's only one more to go.

Mama Lingi also has seven grandchildren, four that live in Australia, two in New Zealand and One in Samoa, ten great grandchildren where most of them come from my family and one and a half as she counted the great great grandchildren since one is still inside the tummy of Te-Riu.

Everyday except for Fridays she says she wakes up early in the morning and goes into her garden to pick the beautiful flowers that she gives to Uncle Charles to take to work so the TV station can be decorated nicely. After that she spends the rest of her days doing the usual housework like the washing, ironing the clothes, cleaning the kitchen and then cooking dinner for when the others return home from work.

On Tuesdays Mama Lingi has a helper to come and assist her in the morning to around midday to do some work around the house that she can't do on her own because she might be a little bit tired of the hard work she's been doing the day before.

On Fridays Mama Lingi goes to the supermarket to do her grocery shopping with Uncle Trevor. Just for something to keep her entertained Uncle Trevor takes her down to the Punanga Nui market early Saturday morning where she buys all her vegetables and then enjoys her cup of tea and donuts before she goes back home and has a rest.

Mama Lingi is the mother of the New Hope Church where she goes every Sunday morning because she was brought up going to church. At church she collects the tithes from everybody and then says a prayer thanking the Lord for everything he has done for her and also her family.

Mama Lingi says that she's the mother of the TV station as well. Because Mama Lingi doesn't want to be tired when she comes to church my Nana Shona has now taken over the cooking from her for our big family lunch on Sundays once church has finished.

Other things my Mama Lingi does is, she goes to the 60 plus meetings whenever they have them and the Grey Power meetings where she is also invited to say the opening and/or closing prayers.

My Great Grandmother Mama Lingi loves doing things for her family and always thinks about everyone before herself. She loves being in the garden, as it is one of the places she says is very beautiful. I am very blessed that she is still in my life and thank her for everything she has done.

# Absolutely positively entertaining

By Teherenui Koteka

Last Saturday the Miss Cook Islands Pageant was held at the National Auditorium. I myself attended the celebrations with a few of my friends, and I must say it was very pleasing to see the auditorium so full of people eager to cheer on our beautiful Cook Island women.

Personally I have never really been one for pageants and beauty shows but I thoroughly enjoyed the show this year. Maybe it is because the Association has stepped up their game because of the controversy going on at the moment or maybe it is because the last time a Miss Cook Islands pageant was held was three years ago and at that time I was not very interested in the whole pageant scene, but whatever the reason may be I thought it was absolutely positively entertaining.

The night began with a performance by three Tereora College students. They kicked off the night by singing a beautiful cover of Adele's song 'Make you feel my love.' I take my hat off to you girls, not only for singing so beautifully but for being brave enough to grace the stage.

The first category was swimwear. Miss the Vaka Cruise took out this category in the end, and in my opinion she deserved it. I definitely loved her presentation. I literally felt like I could have been on the cruise.

Next up came the evening wear section. I personally am very interested in fashion so this section of the night was definitely one that I waited for. In the end our new Miss Cook Islands Felicia George came out as the winner of this section stunning the crowd with a black long sleeved low back evening gown laced with parau shells. It truly was a beautiful dress. Completely breathtaking, just like the woman modeling it.

The final section was the impromptu question round. In my opinion I do believe Miss Prime Foods answered this question with the most poise and knowledge. I found that her answer was very straightforward and relevant to the question. Good job Miss Prime Foods.

As the night came to an end and they announced the winners it became clear who was going to walk away with the title of Miss Cook Islands. Of course by now you all know that Felicia George, Miss Crown Beach emerged victorious as the Miss Cook Islands 2015. Congratulations to all the other contestants. You girls stood with pride, beauty and intelligence, perfect examples of what Cook Islands women should strive to represent. I'd also like to extend a especially big congratulations to the girls from Aitutaki.

Here are the consolation prizes results:

- Miss Congeniality - Casey Viti
- Miss Personality- Felicia George
- Miss Photogenic- Felicia George
- Miss Deportment- Angel Williams
- Miss Pre-Pageant Interview- Tania Bishop
- Miss Talent- Felicia George
- Miss Beachwear- Tapaeru Toka
- Miss Evening Wear- Felicia George
- Miss Aitutaki- Felicia George
- Miss Maine Purotu- Tania Bishop
- Miss Maine Tapaeru- Tapaeru Toka
- Miss Cook Islands- Felicia George

Clean Up  the World

18 September 2015

Call Matthew Rima or Moana Vaevae  
to register

Phone: 21 256  
or email: [matthew.rima@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:matthew.rima@cookislands.gov.ck)

Mikie Enry is doing the rounds of the islands gossip bars scouring for tit bits to report back to Elvis and his friend Marki Brown. Mikie has been letting everyone who will tolerate listening to the little Aitutakian fish he has paid back the advanced funds to government for his failed schooner business which he hasn't contributed a dollar to, just like the resort in Aitutaki he promoted as his own. Mikie is the eyes and ears for Elvis and Marki because they don't venture into some of the gossip dens Mikie wriggles into to hear the latest.



What's happened to Nickie? Hired at \$1,530 a week plus vehicle, internet, phone and other allowances to be the 50 year celebration master mind, director and chief negotiator to get the international band UB40 on board, he is supposed to be employed for the whole year but it seems he blew his budget after a few months, the whole \$600,000 but on what? The leaked POBOC financials makes interesting reading but doesn't show how much Nickie steered brother Mikie's way to put on the fireworks displays.



When is the editor of the daily black and white tripple going to stop printing political stories by the no clues Flipper Ebie? Her lead front page political about the Demos and the snap election is so mumbo jumbo it's misleading. Glassie never signed any letter to become the leader of the Opposition; if he did sign something it certainly wasn't to become the leader of the Demo Opposition as Flipper reports. Caucus don't decide the leader of the Demos that's done at a Party conference by the delegates from each puna. Anyway coups are done from



within not by the outsider Opposition. Get rid of the foreign reporters and get Wilson back, at least she knows the local set up.



Mike Carr's outburst about Denis Tunui is a load of crock. Quite happy to dump on pensioner Dennis the Grey Power menace, where were his poison pen letters when government unlawfully taxed the local pensioners, oh that's right Carr needs Neves' business? Like the lawyers on the island mum's the word when government walks all over the law but they have something to say when the CJ is questioned. Too much chicken liver in the professional people who could help keep the wayward government in check.



Elvis is doing his best to divert public attention away from his decoded secret to expel his troublesome Deputy the four time loser Heta. Heta's insistance cabinet overrides the Public Service Commissioner is the hold up to the HOMs being named then appointed after contractual details has been amicably negotiated with the PSC. The law is the law and with the media's on every move Elvis makes so as an act

of self preservation or once is sticking to the law. First no decision could be made because Elvis was overseas now the excuse is Heta is overseas, what a load of bullocks. Anyway on his return the bulldozer bully boy is going to be dumped and his spot is going to Demos' Tetangi Matapo from Tamaura. Turepu gets the DPM post and Mark Brown will be the Acting PM when Elvis is getting his travel addiction medication. Elvis can bleep all he likes about the CIP being a stable government but the real deal is the CIP government is toxic and worried.



Our globetrotting PM Lenri Foonah might think he's world famous-in his own imagination! Looking at the news footage by TVNZ of the recent Forum Leaders Summit in PNG on the goggle-box, one must ask where was our globetrotting PM? There were no interviews with him and he was nowhere to be seen. Surely he had something to say? Plenty of footage of the NZ and Aussie PMs but where was Lenri?



Health Minister Nandi Glassie shuffled off to India to stand in for our PM and after rubbing shoulders with the PM of

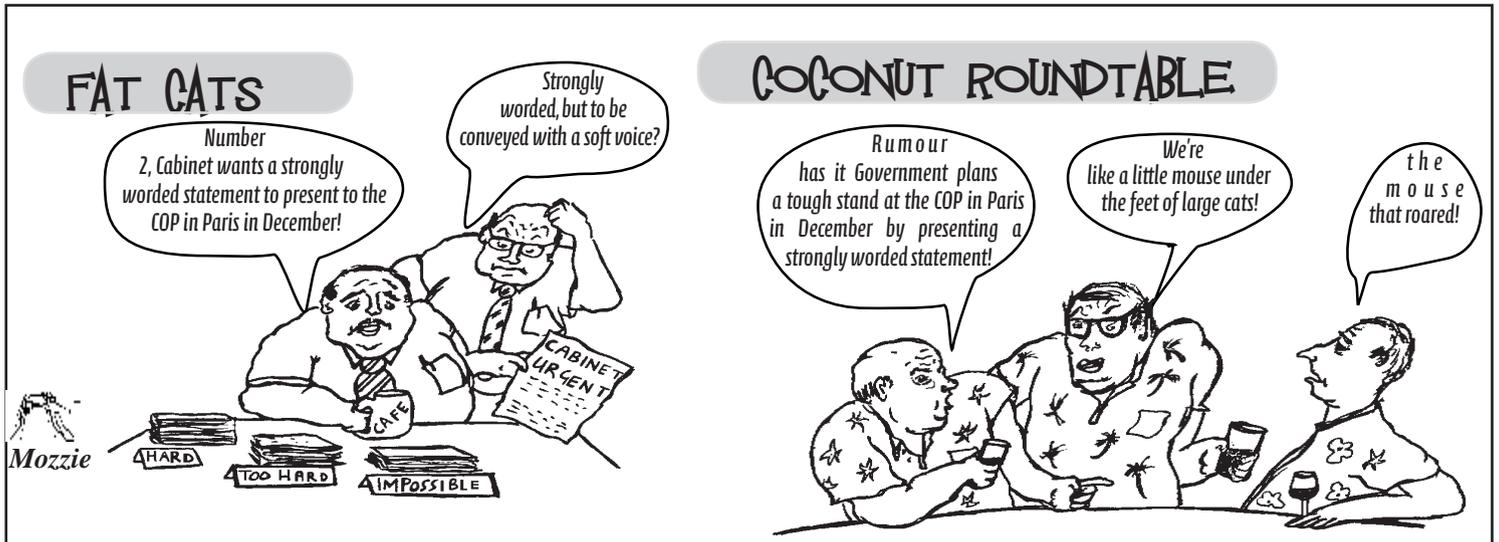
the world's biggest democracy, he came back converted. That is he came back looking like an Indian! It must have been the headgear that was a dead set giveaway! Sporting a dandy turban Sahib Mahah-nandi Glassai interrupted his noon day meal of curry and Mumbai (Bombay) Duck so say how very, very, much he was enjoying his jolly visit to the homeland!



Our globetrotting PM Lenri Foonah will shortly be off again overseas! He has a number of trips lined up before the big one, the COP in gay Paree in December! Don't expect Lenri to do a King Canute at this mother of all environmental meetings. Sea levels will rise and there's buggar all Lenri and 15,000 other delegates at the COP can do about it except moan loudly along with all the other leaders of low lying Pacific islands. Why bother going at all? So he can be seen of course! If past experience is anything to go by, when Lenri gets up to have his 3 minute spiel, most of the world's main leaders, Obama, Putin and co, will have long gone. So why bother?



Elvis' immediate reactive media response to the snap election story that comes on the heels of the Demo admission Minister Nandi Glassie had signed an agreement to defect indicates he's on tender hooks; in fact all of the non Heather supporters in caucus are nervous, such is the dark mood he is in, Heather may just lay aside his lofty ambition to be the PM just to topple Puna and Brown. If Heather can't have the top job, one spiteful option he has is to engineer a move to deny Puna the same privilege that's the basis of his plan B.





**REQUEST FOR TENDER  
OPERATING TABLE FOR SURGICAL THEATRE**

Tenders are requested for the supply of an operating table for the Surgical Theatre at the Rarotonga Hospital as specified in the Request for Tender document.

Tenders shall be submitted either:  
Completed Hard copy - packaged and labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly shown on the outside:  
Procurement of Medical Equipment 2015/2016  
Cook Islands Ministry of Health  
P O Box 109,  
Avarua,  
COOK ISLANDS

OR  
Softcopy: Emailing the tender bid as a pdf file to tenders@cookislands.gov.ck with the subject line "Procurement of Medical Equipment 2015/2016". 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 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 30th September 2015 at 4.00pm.

The Request for Tender documents and operating table specifications can be obtained from the Funding & Planning office of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa or on the Ministry of Health website www.health.gov.ck. Prospective tenderers can also contact Ms Vaine Ngatokorua on ph 29664, fax 23109 or email: vaine.ngatokorua@cookislands.gov.ck

**VACANCY**



Business Trade Investment Board  
Cook Islands

**VACANCY: MANAGER - FOREIGN INVESTMENT & COMPLIANCE**

An opportunity now exists at the Business Trade Investment. The ideal applicant would have experience on Foreign Investment regulations and requirements; enforcement of policies using agencies and other regulatory arms of Government; broad exposure and experience in the commercial environment of the Cook Islands; and an appropriate Degree, or with at least 5 years of appropriate experience.  
Applicants must be self-motivated, proactive, and have the ability to take projects through to completion.  
Telephone 24296, for a copy of the Job Description, or email to: taina.white@cookislands.gov.ck.  
Forward written applications with a current CV to: BTIB, Private Bag, Rarotonga, Attn: Taina White, or by email.  
Applications close 4pm, Wednesday 23rd September 2015.



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
Government of the Cook Islands

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) is seeking expressions of interest from local businesses, contractors and individuals for the two work programmes outlined below.

**1. Security surveillance for government properties**  
CIIC plans to improve its asset management and protection processes by implementing surveillance systems across government properties. CIIC is seeking interests from locally established businesses for one or both of the following components:

- a) Supply, install, commission and maintain IP surveillance systems
  - b) Monitoring, response and patrol services
- Interested businesses are asked to submit a capability statement outlining:
- Company background and capabilities
  - Relevant experience
  - Key personnel and management expertise
  - Contact information

Only those who register their interest and pass the initial evaluation process will receive Request for Proposals, when they become available.

**2. Asbestos removal work**  
CIIC is preparing for the staged removal of asbestos-containing building materials from government buildings commencing in 2016. It is intended that this work be carried out by contractors who are fully competent and conversant with best practise standards and procedures for handling asbestos materials. Through this expressions of interest process CIIC will identify contractors (businesses or individuals) who wish to undergo training and certification, and later tender for the removal work.

Interested contractors are asked to supply the following information:

- Name and contact details
- Construction experience and qualifications
- Previous experience with asbestos removal work and certification (if any)

To confirm your interest in either one or both programmes, or for further details, please email anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck. Expressions of interest close at 4.00pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



**PUBLIC NOTICE – AVATIU VALLEY ROAD**

Residents and users of Avatiu valley road are advised of an impending project start for TAU civil works at the Power station that will affect road traffic between now and November 2015. In particular they are asked to show:

1. Carefulness in the area in question from the Power station to the intersection at Avatiu Ara metua.
2. Awareness of heavy vehicles, plant and machinery which may be parked on the Avatiu valley road
3. Adherence to speed limit, warning signs, traffic direction from time to time etc.



[www.cookislandschamber.org](http://www.cookislandschamber.org)

**AGM NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday 17th September 2015

**Time:** 4.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Trader Jack's Restaurant, Avarua, Rarotonga

**Agenda:**

1. Confirmation of Quorum
2. Proxy Votes
3. Welcome by the President
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 30 October 2014
5. Matters Arising from these Minutes
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer and Auditor Reports
8. Election of Officers
9. Nomination and approval of Auditor for 2015 – 16
10. General Business
11. Associate Membership
12. Other

The Chamber of Commerce is your Private Sector Organisation in the Cook Islands

For further information, please contact the Chamber office  
**Phone:** 20 925 **E-mail:** [chamber@commerce.co.ck](mailto:chamber@commerce.co.ck)

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board  
Cook Islands

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
AITUTAKI FARMERS  
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT LOAN SCHEME (ADL)**

The Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) Agriculture Development Loan Scheme (ADL) is now open to Farmers in Aitutaki who need financial assistance.

Specific Conditions:

- Maximum limit will be up to \$3,000.
- Interest rate of 5% p.a will apply.
- The maximum term of the loan is 12 months.

For an application form and criteria on the Agriculture Development Loan Scheme contact:

Lydia Tararo-Marsh  
Ph 24-296

Mii Makimare  
Phone 31- 001

Business Trade Investment Board Bank of the Cook Islands  
(Aitutaki)

Email: [lydia.marsh@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:lydia.marsh@cookislands.gov.ck) Email: [mii.makimare@bci.co.ck](mailto:mii.makimare@bci.co.ck)

Application Forms must be completed and received at the BTIB Office or BCI –Aitutaki by Thursday 17th September 4.00pm.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to advise the general public and any commercial entities using or intending to use the connecting road between the Ara Metua and the track to the Mt Te Manga access point commonly known as "the Needle," is a Private Road, not a Public Road as mistakenly understood by many.

As of the date of this notice, any individual, company or industry sector using or intending to use this road for commercial purposes, will need to make arrangements with the Ngati Uritaua.(Ph: 24241)

Andrew Turua Pamatatau OBE  
URITAUA- I- UTA

Mrs Keu Mitchell  
URITAUA –I-TAI

Dated this 15 September 2015 (on behalf of the Ngati Uritaua Clan)

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**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# Auckland City FC pre-season starts

*Auckland City FC has revealed its pre-season match schedule as the Navy Blues target the defence of their ASB Premiership and OFC Champions League crowns in 2015/16, and look ahead to the FIFA Club World Cup in December.*

Preparations got underway at the Croatian Club in West Auckland last week as the first-team squad reported for day one of pre-season training with two new faces.

Attacking midfielder Micah Lea'alafa and New Zealand U-20 international Te Atawhai Hudson-Wihongi enjoyed their first training session in Navy Blue with Lea'alafa the club's first Solomon Islands signing since Henry Fa'arodo in 2008.

Players to exit the club include forward David Browne who signed with Dutch side PEC Zwolle, John Irving who has returned to Welsh football with Bala Town, while Oscar Garcia has signed professional terms with a club in Norway.

Ivan Carril, an integral figure in last season's OFC Champions League campaign, has joined Norwegian side Club FK Gjøvik-Lyn with goalkeeper Tamati Williams opting to stay in the Netherlands.

With the training schedule just beginning and squad assembly a work in progress, Tribulietx looked ahead to a pre-season schedule that also includes a tough away friendly with Hyundai A-League outfit Wellington Phoenix on 26 September at Westpac Trust Stadium.

"It is a long pre-season this year with the ASB



Te Atawhai Hudson-Wihongi has joined Auckland City FC for the upcoming season. Credit: FIFA via Getty Images

Premiership starting a bit later than last season so we had to sort out a few more games to prepare the team for an intense season.

"I think the games we've arranged are of good calibre and will help us tune up for a tough campaign.

"The Wellington Phoenix game is obviously a difficult one as they have been preparing for a long time so the result is not so important.

"I see the Phoenix match as a good opportunity for us to face a professional team and we will try to benefit from the experience as much as we can.

"We will try to implement and practice our own systems with and without the ball against a good football side. I'm happy we've managed to

secure this fixture," he said.

Apart from the Wellington Phoenix friendly, Auckland City FC also face ASB Premiership rivals Hawke's Bay United in Taupo on 3 October, Canterbury United Dragons in Auckland on 17 October and Waitakere United on 24 October.

"ASB Premiership opponents give us an opportunity to compete and practice our movements, our positions with the ball, our defensive structure, the readjustments we think we have to implement against domestic teams in order to be ready for our first official game," Tribulietx added.

The Navy Blues take on an U-17 selection on 30 September and stage an inter-squad match on 10 October. They then play

Team Wellington in the ASB Charity Cup season opener on 1 November at Kiwitea Street.

Auckland City FC's first ASB Premiership clash is the televised clash with Super City rivals Waitakere United on Sunday 8 November at QBE Stadium at 4.35pm.

While pre-season preparations are underway, Auckland City FC's FIFA Club World Cup fate will be decided at the official draw in Zurich on 23 September.

The Navy Blues face another play-off qualifier despite winning the bronze medal at last year's competition after a thrilling penalty shoot-out win over North and Central American champions Deportivo Cruz Azul in Morocco.