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30 September 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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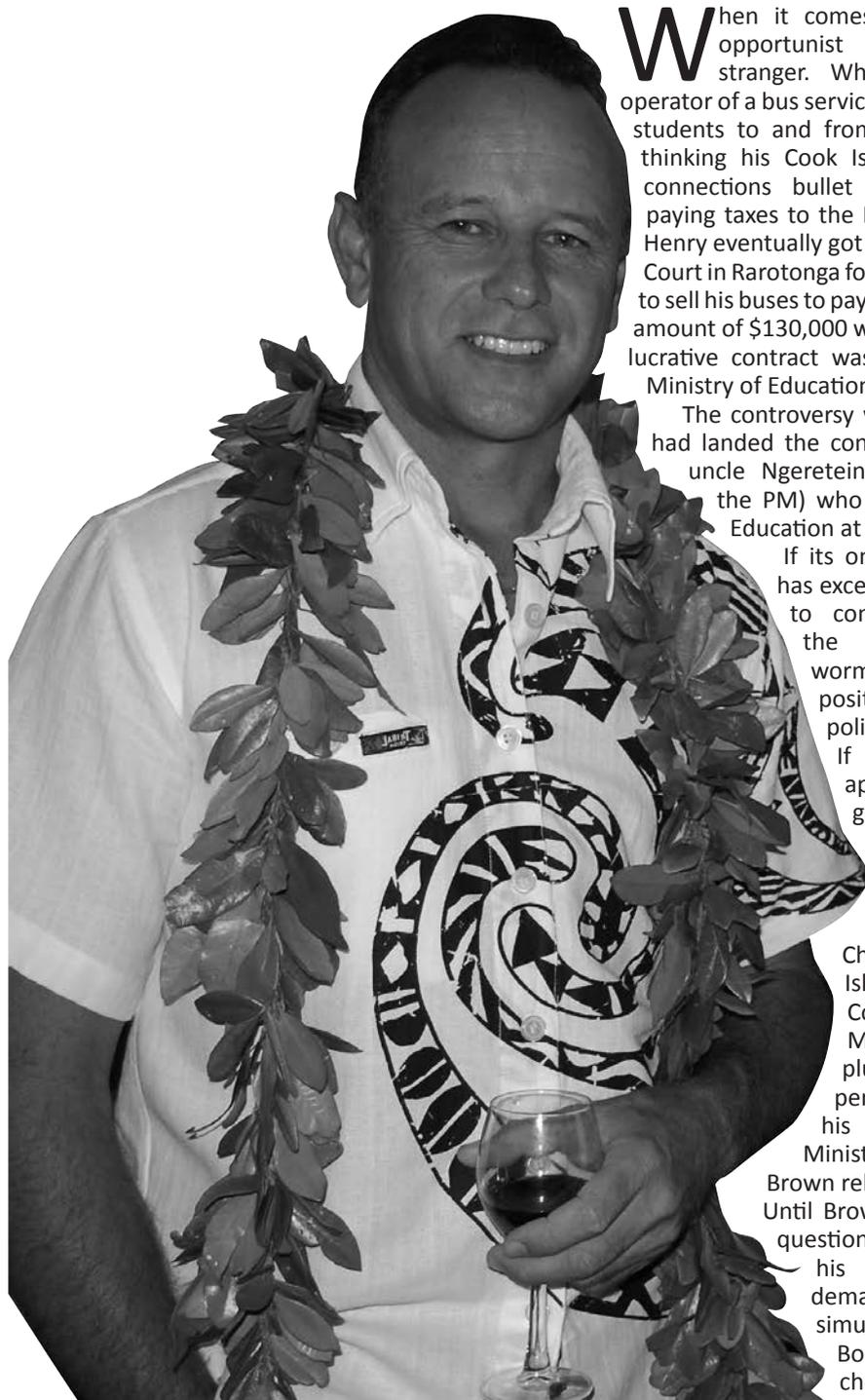
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Government scammed by Mike Henry - position and friendship used to con Neves



When it comes to shady dealings opportunist Mike Henry is no stranger. When he was owner operator of a bus service mainly transporting students to and from school in Aitutaki, thinking his Cook Islands Party political connections bullet proofed him from paying taxes to the Inland Revenue Mike Henry eventually got convicted in the High Court in Rarotonga for tax dodging. He had to sell his buses to pay the negotiated down amount of \$130,000 when his controversial lucrative contract was terminated by the Ministry of Education.

The controversy was that Mike Henry had landed the contract from his wife's uncle Ngereteina Puna (Brother of the PM) who was the Minister of Education at the time.

If its one thing Mike Henry has excelled at it, is his ability to contribute nothing to the CIP campaign but worm his way into Board positions and well paid political appointments. If Mike Henry had to apply for a highly paid government position he would never make the short list. Unqualified to be the Chairman of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) Mike landed the plum role because he persistently badgered his close friend the Minister of Finance till Brown reluctantly caved in. Until Brown's fellow Ministers questioned his pandering to his friend's persuasive demands, Mike was simultaneously on five Boards. Mike Henry also chose Board appointees

and was on the interview panel for the Heads of Ministries. Mike Henry himself has never held any senior public service position or demonstrated successful business acumen therefore it is evident his appointments are not on merit but political patronage and nepotism.

Mike Henry is a constant travelling companion of Brown or the PM on overseas trips, for what reason no one seems to know. Mike Henry has no known expertise or qualification that justifies his inclusion on Ministerial international travel except to exploit any opportunity for self enrichment. When involved in discussions with the Canadian seabed mining interest company Endeavour, Mike Henry embarrassedly tried to assertively negotiate a joint venture deal with them and him which they declined.

An outsider from Aitutaki Mike Henry's big noting on Rarotonga has worn thin and become intolerable to many in the CIP and an irritant in some sectors of the business community.

Desperate to get his finances out of the deep red Mike Henry has undermined and betrayed his friendship with his childhood friend Mark Brown. Mike Henry has a known tendency to live the high life at the expense of others; he has a love of maritime pursuits. Although one of his vessels sunk off Manuae, Mike Henry is competent skipper who has owned vessels for many years.

His Pacific Schooner Ltd venture is his biggest maritime indulgence to date which will

continued next page

prove to be an ill gained bargain basement acquisition and the trigger that set in motion a trail of corruption which will eventually lead to the down fall and defeat of the CIP Government if the integrity of this scandal is bought before the Court.

After two months of intense scrutiny by a persistent and fearless media, nothing revealed or reluctantly disclosed by the perpetrators of the Schoonergate scandal falls in favour of the government.

The fact that more than three weeks after the three person Public Expenditure Review Committee (PERC) released their findings on Schoonergate the Prime Minister Henry Puna has failed his promise to comment is indicative the government has some serious issues to make good. At a weekly media conference more than two weeks ago Puna said he had been so busy he hadn't had the time to read their report. He assured those present at the media conference the next week he would be happy to discuss it in detail, he has reneged on that assurance.

When faced with allegations of political misadventures and corruption the CIP government resorts to silence, pathetic excuses and fits of amnesia with the Financial Secretary Richard Neves left to face the media to camouflage the evidences of corruption. For a government who claims it has nothing to hide and is without secrets there is an awful lot of ducking and diving even refusing to cough up requested information under the time frame of three weeks as per the Official Information Act.

A time line evolution of the comments by whom and what was said has proven lies have been spun to divert people from the truth; the play on words is alarming but very discernible to the astute. Despite there being overwhelming evidence Neves has blatantly lied to cover his tracks is more than enough to be suspended by the Public Service Commission Russell Thomas, his blind eye response is as Puna's political puppet Thomas is reluctant to jeopardise his request to be appointed to the prestigious position of the Cook Islands High Commissioner to New Zealand.

Thomas' condoning of Neves' corruption and politicising of his



position is enough to have him dismissed from Wellington when the Government is ousted.

In June 2015 Richard Neves in a Cook Islands Radio broadcast told programme host Tony Hakaoro no money had been advanced to Pacific Schooners Ltd. Neves stressed this point vehemently. This proved to be a blatant lie because in the first week of August Neves made an admission in an Cook Islands article written by Florence Syme-Buchanan he had made an undisclosed advance payment to Mike Henry and he quoted confidentiality as the reason he could not disclose the amount.

Several sources had leaked to the media the advance was \$200,000 but neither Neves nor Brown would deny or confirm the amount. A source informed the media Mike Henry was flushed with funds in the third week of May as he was paying several long standing outstanding large debts.

If Mike Henry had been advanced \$200,000 in May 2015 that is two and a half months prior to the commencement of the service contract signed on 8 May. This in itself was highly irregular and unprecedented, but according to a source Mike Henry was in financial difficulties and despite Brown handing him

continued page 4



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multiple Board positions and a \$70,000 non contracted job with no description plus regular international travel to pick up lucrative expense allowances, this was not enough for the insatiable Mike Henry who had readily become consumed by greed.

The one sided contract that Neves claimed was scripted by Crown Law is hideous and amateurish; it fails in several instances to protect the interest of the Crown.

The contract fails to name the vessel to be used therefore exempting PSL from providing security over the over generous advance payment. Should PDL breach the contract the Crown does not have a vessel to impound with a writ until a satisfactory payment has been retrieved.

The fact Neves signed the service contract with an unregistered foreign company that Brown knowingly tried to publicly pass off as a local company is evidence the whole deal had been tailor made to help Mike Henry get out of his self inflicted financial predicament.

Deny and dismiss as much as they like the contract was concocted to suit the personal needs of Mike Henry based upon

his verbal persuasion everything was in order. When it was pointed out to Neves PSL was a deregistered company he was quick to state it was an oversight on Mike Henry's part. So readily were Puna, Brown and Neves to help Mike Henry he abused their willingness and crafted a scam he could not be penalised for.

No due diligence was done on the Tiare Taporo the presumed vessel PSL were going to use. Several claims about TT's specification were made by Neves and Brown to justify the contract with PSL. Neves was simply conned to contract an untried \$100 shipping company with no working history, paying \$200,000 in 10 weeks in advance without any security to impound, without visual presence, all based on Mike Henry's hypnotic verbal's.

Neves rambled on about running out of time and the complexity of coordinating the outer islands transporting for the 50th Maeva Nui Celebrations, just an attempt to divert attention from the corruption raging on behind the scenes said it was done in good faith, which is irrelevant when PSL was clearly insolvent and without a valid BTIB foreign registration

licence.

While Mike Henry had admitted to sources around mid August PSL would not be in a position to honour the contract, on the 26 August 2015 on Radio Cook Islands Neves said he was confident the TT was arriving on the 15 September and would be put straight to work despite also acknowledging there were no passengers to repatriate. Neves then shifted attention to freighting cargo which the contract made no mention of and despite Puna claiming the storage shed at Avatiu Port was busting at the seams with freight an inspection the next day by the media revealed Puna had been mislead or was just lying.

Sources who have maritime experience and interests claim according to photos published and the vessels description on the internet the TT is neither a cargo vessel or a passenger one but a hybrid of both, one source said it seems to be more of a leisure vessel. How it could carry 130 passengers is highly questionable seeing there are only cabin provisions for 30 people. It is hardly likely a vessel the size of TT would be permitted to carry 100 deck passengers.

Secretary of Transport Ned

Howard said he could not make specific comments on the stated capabilities of TT as it has never been sighted in the Cook Islands. If it arrives PSL will have to apply for a licence then the stringent formalities will be carried out, he said it had to be surveyed and only then can a licence with terms can be issued.

Normal practise with government shipping contracts is the vessel has to be maritime ready before the funds are paid just days before engagement.

Mike Henry's role in the Schoonergate scandal has been central, he has pulled the strings of the incompetent and gullible Neves to benefit himself at the expense of the Rarotonga taxpayers. Brown didn't have the courage to chastise his friend and will suffer irreparable political consequences.

The contract foolishly signed off by Neves is legally unenforceable and he knows it that's why he is desperately trying to secure alternative work for PSL to trade off the \$200,000 deposit. For his scamming Mike Henry needs to be immediately removed from all government Board positions he holds and his tax funded employment terminated. - George Pitt

Taxing of NZ Super, so much effort for so little return

By Charles Pitt

The current CIP Government's decision to overturn a long standing policy and start taxing those receiving the NZ Super while at first seeming like a rather straightforward, legitimate attempt to raise additional revenue, quickly became a nightmare which seems to have no end.

What seemed like a minor adjustment to bureaucratic process, backfired rather badly on Government. The whole exercise encountered much opposition from pensioners and became a big deal requiring increased effort on government's part despite the fact so little revenue stands to be raised from the approximately 260 pensioners involved, estimated to be less than \$500,000.

When you compare this figure to the salaries of just two top civil servants, you realize the wastefulness and ludicrousness of the whole exercise-that it takes the tax from 260 Cook Islands

people to pay the equivalent of salaries of two public servants from overseas. Finance Secretary Neves, an Australian, his salary package was \$300,000 and former Solicitor General Saunders, a New Zealander, her salary package was \$200,000, total-\$500,000 (it is believed both salaries were actually overseas funded).

It is a fact that ever since portability of NZ Super was approved, the law which existed at the time, required Cook Islanders returning home with their NZ Super, to pay local income tax rates. No-one is arguing about this. It's on the Statute books.

The argument concerns the policy adopted by successive governments from the outset and how without any warning, the current government overturned this long standing policy without any prior notice or explanation as to why. What then followed was a poorly handled and executed claim for back tax from those pensioners involved and the legally questionable seizure of monies from the bank accounts

of some pensioners.

It is now generally accepted that government could have handled the whole process better. As a public relations exercise, it was a complete and embarrassing failure.

When portability was approved, the policy adopted by the government at the time was not to enforce the requirement to pay tax. The Herald was informed by those present at the negotiations in NZ that not taxing the NZ Super would provide an added incentive for Cook Islanders to return home and spend their money in the local economy. NZ Super coming into the country amounts to around \$6 million a year. Tax on this probably amounts to just under \$500,000 per year.

This policy was maintained by successive governments for nearly 20 years until the current government came into power in 2010.

Without any warning, the current government decided to enforce the taxing of the NZ

Super. Given the requirement to pay tax already existed, was the government obligated to inform pensioners of the forthcoming change? Of course it was. If long standing policy is to be altered, those directly affected, are entitled to be informed and granted time to make adjustments accordingly.

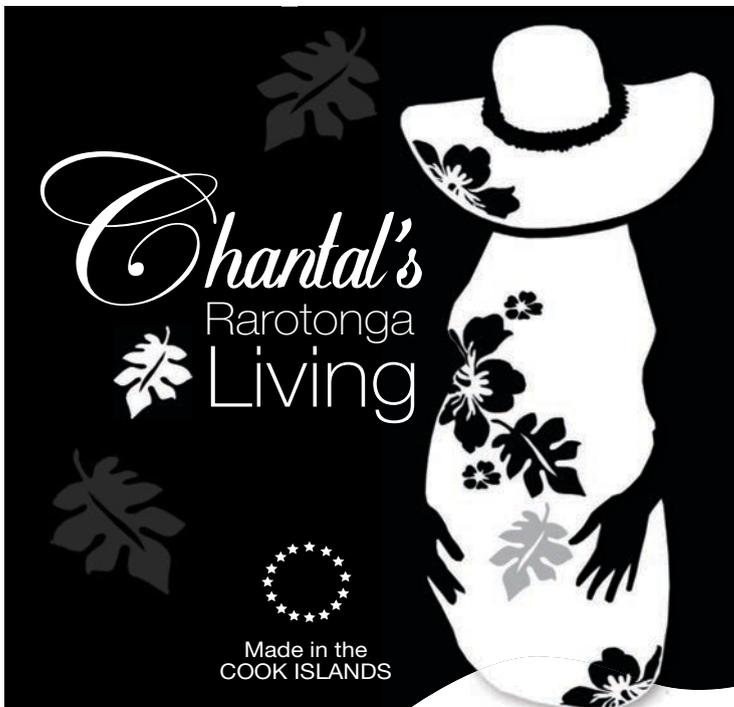
For this government to infer the policy was changed because of a new tax agreement with NZ is misleading. The NZ government made it clear in Appendix Three of the documents signed, it will not impose any tax on Cook Islanders receiving their NZ Super in the Cook Islands. (For sovereignty purposes, the NZ government cannot interfere).

Considering all the energy government has assigned to the NZ Super tax affair, and continues to commit, it would have been more productive if it had applied the same energy to seeking alternative revenue streams or making a serious effort to lift productivity and exports. Perhaps that's too hard, too taxing.



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Letter to the Editor

Comments insulting

Dear Editor
The comments made by Sam Crocombe in last week's edition of the Herald questioning the Uritaua Tribe were insulting and absolute lies. His accusations and display of genealogical arrogance shows there is only one place to deal with this type of nonsense and that's in court.

His outburst has only created more "anti Gumby feelings" and angered many residents in Avatiu predominantly from the Uritaua Tribe. No apology is going to undo the damage he has created and his comments have sparked calls to have him removed off the lands on Uruau as we believe he has overstepped the mark in terms of unjustified allegations and criticisms.

He represents a small portion of people that suffer from "short persons syndrome" (there are a few of those on Rarotonga at present) who believe they are untouchable and above the law. Well don't be surprised if you find tomorrow, legal steps will be taken to block you from using the valley road in future. It's time the Uritaua Tribe stood up to this kind of nonsense from people like you especially when you are not from the Tribe nor of the Land. Kia mata kite koe apopo!

Nga Uritaua

Grey Power down but not out

Dear Editor,
The law to tax us NZ paid pensioners is barely a year old, passed by an anti-pensioner CIP parliament in August last year. And the law not to tax pensioners was established by Papa Arapaiti, founder of the Cook Islands Party 50 years ago.

Understandably the impact of this sudden change to our financial situation will be quite noticeable because we never experienced anything like it before.

Imagine the staff at MFEM who a while back, comforted us with "Kare kotou e tutaki tero e Mama e Papa ma," You will not pay the tax Mamas and Papas, are the same hypocrites sending us threatening letters, hounding us and making unwelcome appearances at our homes demanding we sign some forms for our tax payments.

They are so consumed with getting money off us, that they cannot make up their minds whether to take us to court or raid our bank accounts at the same time.

We advised our members to clear their bank accounts but the banks are using legislation to deduct the monthly required amount off named persons before the rest is lodged in their bank accounts.

This is a more subtle but equally cruel touch to the December 2013 \$30,000 bank raid fiasco carried out by MFEM which culminated in a parliamentary amendment to the tax law to throw out Richard Neves backtax bomb, followed by an embarrassing \$400,000 reimbursement by Henry Puna's CIP government to affected Grey Power members.

If parliament was able to abolish the backtax clause, why didn't they eliminate the other clause as well because they were introduced in tandem?

If one clause is considered not right and removed, the other one cannot be right either and should also be removed.

A legal team from overseas is sympathetic towards Grey Power's plight and is willing to help. Grey Power is down but certainly not out.

*Dennis Tunui
Turangi*

Avatiu Nikao Rugby Football Union

28th September 2015

To: Ben Koteka, CEO, Cook Islands Rugby Union

CC. Teremoana Moekaa, Simioana Teiotu

Re: Complaint against the officials of the Avatiu- Takuvaine Premieres match....

Kia Orana,
We the Avatiu Nikao Rugby Union would like to voice our disappointment and dissatisfaction towards the match officials during last Saturdays match between Avatiu Nikao & Takuvaine Premier grade which resulted in Avatiu/Nikao losing the match and costing them the Premiership title.

There were many flaws and unruling decisions throughout the match: (see below)

a) There was one incident the referee blew his whistle near the try line and indicated the ball was held up, but the linesman over ruled the refs decision and the try was awarded.

b) The time-keeping for instance. There was still 1-2 min of play left on the clock, but somehow the referee decided to listen to the TKV players and supporters and called off the game early. This is not only unprofessional, but it also jeopardized Avatiu's chance to counter attack from the Takuvaine drop out. The hooter did not sound until moments AFTER the referee called 'full-time.' So our point is, what's the purpose of having an 'official time-keeper' when the referee calls full-time because the team in the lead says so, or when the linesman gives him the nod?

Therefore, as the President of Avatiu/Nikao Rugby Club, I along with the hard working 22 men and coaching team would like to know, how the CIRU is going to handle the above.

There is video-evidence of the shocking display and calls made by those officiating Saturday's grand-finals. The game was replayed on CITV on Sunday 28th September, and clearly showed the lack of unprofessionalism by the referee, and the two linesman in question – and clearly showed the confusion and the disappointment surrounding the full-time whistle.

c) Thirdlly, the try-scorer mentioned in this morning's paper (Monday 28th September 2015), is CIRU able to verify this by way of proof, that Travel Tou had scored the try? It was clear that it would be impossible to have identified him as the try-scorer and was visibly seen during the replay match on CITV? Not even the commentators nor the bench officials were able to identify him, so therefore, how on earth was CIRU able to?

d) Lastly, why was Paul Peyroux on linesman duties, when in fact he has never refereed a game throughout the Rugby 15's season? CIRU needs to implement policies surrounding all officials that in order to conduct any duties such as that during ANY grand-finals that you MUST be a referee and have at least x amount of experience, because of his ill-experience, and awarding the try, over-ruling the referee's decision is downright disappointing.

The Avatiu/Nikao Rugby Club Recommendations for the 2016 season and onwards:

In order to improve the Rugby Union review on Tue evening

The Avatiu/Nikao would like to move a motion and support the CIRU in bringing in proper professional referees from NZ or other Pacific Islands for next year's grand finals only..... The SEVENS IN HEAVEN competition brings in top referees from NZ and If the referee association threatens the CIRU to boycott from refereeing anymore games, just let it be, move on....

Again Congratulations to the Takuvaine Club, this letter in not against them, but it's against the match officials.....

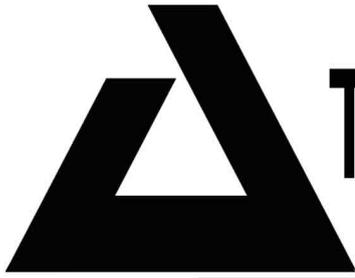
We look forward to your response from the CIRU on this matter.....

Meitaki maata

William Taripo- President

Avatiu Rugby Club, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Email: w.taripo@health.gov.ck



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Cook Islands Herald Issue 786

TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 23rd Sept 2015

More on occupation right

Occupation right was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.

Apai Mataiapo Komono of Te-Au-O-Tonga and Matariki FM radio personality, William Framhein, was the guest speaker on the programme.

Practice Notes concerning occupation rights from the Ministry of Justice was emailed by mistake to Framhein some weeks ago.

The Practice Notes contained proposed changes to occupation rights.

Framhein said in Māori that the Practice Notes were from the Court to local lawyers seeking lawyer's opinions or feedback on the proposed changes to occupation rights.

"E akauēanga teia mei roto mai i te Akavaanga ki te au roia, tikitiki manako no ko mai i te au roia no runga oki i te tu akateretereanga patiangā turanga are, koia oki occupation right, ta tatou urianga i roto i te reo papaa, to tatou reo Māori, turanga are".

Framhein added that public meetings have been held in the three Vakas of Tumutevarovaro (Rarotonga) namely Te-Au-O-Tonga, Puaikura and Takitumu called by the Ui Ariki and the Aronga Mana of each Vaka.

He said Secretary for the Ministry of Justice, Tingika Elikana played a role in those meetings explaining the law relevant to occupation right as well as vesting orders.

"I teia nga epetome i topa ake nei kua ava te Are Ariki i tetai au uipaanga i te apai atu oki i teia manako ki te katoatoa e, i roto i te reira au uipaanga, na Tingika i rave i tetai tuanga ua o teia tuanga e uriurii nei i roto i to tatou iti tangata, so ko te tuanga ta Tingika i rave no runga i te akamaramaanga i te irava ture no te occupation right e te mana o te Akavaanga i raro ake i te reira irava ture, e pera katoa te tuanga ture no te vesting orders".

Framhein stated that people present at the public meetings have now come to understand that the occupation right process was originally intended to obtain lands for produce or planting.

"Kare a ia i oro roa ana ki roto i te reira no te mea ko te manako ta te Akavaanga e tikitiki nei no ko mai i te au roia no runga teia i te irava ture o te occupation right, e, i roto oki i teia i te au uipaanga ta Tingika i tae atu ki roto i te akamarama atu i te irava ture no te occupation right kua kiteia e te katoatoa ko te akakoroanga o te occupation right no te tuatau tanutanu, tanu anani, tanu tomati e te vai atu ra, kua atuia teia ture no te reira akakoroanga".

He said however that Judges have interpreted occupation right laws in different ways since 1946.

"Inara, i roto oki i te urianga o teia irava ture ta te au Akava i rave i te au tuatau i topa, kua manako ratou e ka rauka rai i te turanga are kia o mai rai ki roto i te irava ture, so ko te reira te irava ture oki ta tatou i taangaanga no ta tatou patiangā turanga are, occupation right. So mei te reira tuatau, 1946, e tae mai ki teia ra, tuketuke te urianga a te au Judges no runga oki i te akatereanga o teia irava ture, occupation right.

Framhein said that since 2011 a Judge has interpreted occupation right to last for 60 years only.

"So, i nga mataiti i topa ake nei, i toku manako 2011 paa, kua akamata tetai Judge i te taangaanga i te ture ki tona aiteanga tikai".

"Ko tana urianga teia so kua topa mai i reira te tuatau no te occupation right, kua o mai te ono ngauru mataiti. Kua marekakore to tatou iti tangata no te mea, kare teia i ta ratou i matau ana mei te taime mua. Me orongaia te turanga are noou e taau tamariki aere te ka aru mai".

According to Framhein the biggest change proposed in the Practice Notes is that after 60 years the land subject to the occupation right reverts back to the extended families or landowners.

He said families and landowners have thought that when one obtains an occupation right the land is his or her's and her children, and grandchildren and so on.

"Kare, toku manako, kare teia ture i akamaraia na ki to tatou iti tangata, so kua manako oki to tatou iti tangata e, i raro ake i te akonoanga Māori, te ture Māori, me orongaia mai toou turanga are, ka mutukore te reira, e, kare teia i te manako ta te iti tangata i manako ua, e irinakianga teia e, ta ratou i marama, me orongaia toou turanga are, mutukore, noou e taau tamariki te ka aru mai, te uki te ka aru mai".

Framhein said that another proposed change is that one would be required to file a topography map with his or her application for occupation right which can cost up to a thousand dollars.

"So, te māpu ta tatou i matau i te taangaanga i te au tuatau i topa, ka pou penei e `ā ngauru (\$40), rima ngauru (\$50) tara i te tiki i tetai māpu mei te reira. Ko te akapouanga moni no teia tu māpu `ōu ta te Akavaanga e inangaro nei, ka pāti e tai tauatini tārā no te mea e maata te angaanga ta te tangata torō ka rave ki runga i teia, tana vaito enua, ka tuku a ia kia tano oki te au tuanga tuketuke i runga i te enua, te au akameitakianga, me e are tetai, e te reira au mea, so, ka aere a ia ki vao, ka raveia tetai angaanga vaito i runga i teia enua".

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Framhein for bringing the proposed changes to occupation rights to the public and landowners' attention.

Due to shortage of space Te Kave Kōrero will publish the rest of the interview with Framhein in future editions as space becomes available.

Meitaki maata William.

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TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 25th Sept 2015

Eels v Reds

Rugby was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 25th September 2015.

Guest speakers on the programme were Wally Tangata, coach of the Avatiu Eels Rugby Club, and Tua Dywer, President of the Takuvaine Reds Rugby Club.

The discussion was centred around the final of the local Bond Store sponsored senior rugby competition held on Saturday 26th September between the Avatiu Eels and the Takuvaine Reds.

The Takuvaine Reds, winners in the past two years, are once again favourites to win this year's competition, and win they did.

In anticipation of the final Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, asked whether both sides have prepared well and ready for the big day.

Dywer said in Māori that the Takuvaine Reds were ready having won 11 games this year.

“Kua papa matou, no te mea kua play oki matou e 11 game i teia mataiti, kua autu oki matou i te reira au game, no reira au i karanga ai e, kua papa matou no te final apopo”.

In responding to the question Tangata said the Avatiu Eels were ready too and that having done his part as the coach, it was up to the players now.

“Meitaki ta matou akateateamamaoanga i teia epetoma. Te irinaki nei au e, kua pou rai toku marama i tueporo ei, kua oti i aku i te akamarama i toku pupu tueporo, i teia tuanga i reira i teia taime, no ratou te maroiroi toe na ratou oki e rave i te taangaanga i teia angaanga tueporo, tai ua a taua, noo ki vao, me aere mai te half time, kua akatanotano te au ngai tukau i kia maroiroi mai oki to matou pupu tamariki. I roto i teia tuatau, i taku akaraanga, e te

irinakianga rai o to matou pupu, kua papa ratou no teia tarekareka apopo”.

Tangata said their preparation for the final went well although one of his players had the flu but was expected to recover well ahead of the final.

Asked whether he had identified a weakness in the Takuvaine side Tangata said that the side has not suffered a loss in two years and that “they are the team to beat”.

“E meitaki rai teia pupu no te Takuvaine. Kare rai ratou i ruti ake. Ko ratou rai mei teia mataiti i topa ake nei e tae mai ki teia mataiti, kare rai ratou i ruti ake. So, karanga rai koe i te reo papa’ā e, they are the team to beat, so e, ka inangaro rai koe, te maroiroi o to matou team, ka inangaroia kia meitaki atu i to te Takuvaine, ei reira, i toku irinakianga, ei reira matou e autu ai”.

He added that playing against Takuvaine a team needs “to be strong right across”.

“I te tue ki te Takuvaine, you need to be strong right across ea, kare oki e rauka i a koe i te karanga e, ko te tuanga o te forwards, me kare, to te backline, i te tue ki te Takuvaine, you need to be strong right across the board, mei te number one e tae ua atu ki te tai ngauru ma rima”.

Tangata reinforced that the Takuvaine is “very strong up front” in the forwards as well as the backline and that they, the Avatiu Eels, “need to match them” everywhere.

“Ko te meitaki rai te ra o te Takuvaine, they’re very strong up front e amuri atu i te backline so we need to match them i ta ratou tuanga. E au manakonakoanga rai ta matou i manako e ka rauka i a matou i te take advantage ea, take advantage. Tetai ngai ta matou manakoanga, penei manga paruparu mai te Takuvaine, ka rauka i a matou i te counter te reira au ngai aere,

kare au e akakite atu na runga i te ratio, apopo roa tatou e te iti tangata e kite e, no reira kare au e akakite atu, ko te openga, oki a Papa Tua ma, tereni ratou i teia aiai”.

As to whether there are any weaknesses in the Avatiu team, Dywer said that he could not see any weaknesses in the Avatiu side. He said Avatiu is “very effective” in the backline as well as the forwards.

“Kare e ngai paruparu e kite atu ra matou i roto i te pupu o te Avatiu. Both the forwards pack e te backline, effective ratou i te rave i ta ratou angaanga so it’s very hard i te akaraanga i te ngai weakness, both teams. The Avatiu is the same, they are very effective in both the backline e te forward pack atu”.

At the final held on Saturday 25th September Avatiu played extremely well and was ahead on points for most of the game.

The score was 12 – 3 to Avatiu with 15 minutes to go in the game.

But Takuvaine scored a try about 10 minutes before full time and was converted, taking the score to 12 – 10 to Avatiu.

A penalty kick followed about 5 minutes later leaving the score at 13 – 12 to the Reds.

Avatiu had the opportunity to win the game with a penalty kick almost on full time but the kick missed the goal posts giving the Takuvaine Reds the win in this year’s final.

Congratulations to the Takuvaine Reds and to other division winners in this year’s rugby union finals.

Until next year, all the best to all teams in the rugby sevens and touch rugby this coming season.

Cook Islands Herald Issue 786

TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 28 Sept 2015

Whale watching ban & The two Miss Cook Islands associations

Whale watching and the two Miss Cook Islands pageant organisations were the subjects of talkback discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 28th September 2015.

In his introduction, Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Kōrero presenter, said there is a proposed legislation which would be put through Parliament the effect of which, if passed into law, would be a total ban of whale watching in the Cook Islands.

Hakaoro invited listeners to ring in and express their views about the proposed legislation as well as their opinions with regards to the two Miss Cook Islands pageant organisations, the established Miss Cook Islands Pageant Association (MCIPA) and the Miss Cook Islands Association (MCIA).

In relation to whale watching one listener called and said in Māori that if whale watching tourists are harming the whales then it should be stopped, but if not, then whale watching should continue.

“Me te riro ra te turoto i to ratou ere i te matakitaki i te toora e, e taki kino i te toora, tano rai kia tipu ia atu, kia takoreia atu ea, toku manako tera. Me te riro ra e, ei takino i te toora, te ariki nei au i tera manako kia takoreia. Me kare ra e riro na e, ei taki kino i te oraanga o te toora, akaruke ua”.

Referring to the two Miss Cook Islands pageant organisations, one listener said in Māori that she is surprised that there are two organisations. She said there was only one organisation in the past and that her view is to leave the original organisation to run the Miss Cook Islands pageant.

“Poitirere tikai au i te kiteanga e, e rua ia pupu. Te au taime i aereia mai na, e tai rai, e tai rai ia, tae mai nei ki teia taime, ka aere mai teia au manui ki to tatou akau nei oki, a, kua anga akaou mai tatou e rua ia pupu”.

“Kare, toku manako teia, e noo rai tatou ki

te pupu tei matau ia i te rave i teia tuanga no tatou no te Kuki Airani nei. Te ra pupu ou i mea mai ra, ae, e maki tikai. Kore oki e kapiti ua ratou okotai. Akara koe i reira i teia taime, kua kimi tatou i reira i tetai manamanata no tatou rai. Na tatou rai i kimi i to tatou manamanata. Kare ua oki tatou e inangaro na i te manamanata, kare ua au i kite e, ko ai ua ai teia aronga inara, rongo ua au koi oki ua mai ra au no vao mai i to tatou akau, rongo au, ae, teia e ka aere mai teia angaanga ki runga i to tatou taua, a, e rua ia pupu. E aa oki i rua ai? Kore raua e angaanga kapiti.

The caller said that the original organisation should remain as it has been a successful one in the past and over the years.

“Toku manako tera, e noo tatou ki te aronga tei matau i te apai mai na i a tatou i te au ra i topa, te au mataiti i topa, manea `ua, `au `ua, win tatou, ruti, ruti. Kare e manamanata, te aere mai nei i teia taime e rua. Kare, toku manako teia e noo tatou i te ra pupu rai i matau i te apai i a tatou i roto i teia tuanga kia kore tatou e manamanata. Toku manga manako ua te reira”.

One caller said that the Te Kave Kōrero presenter should have explained why there are two organisations and how they came about.

A different caller suggested that the presenter should invite leaders of both organisations onto radio to debate the issues or explain themselves.

“Kia orana, manako ua toku no runga i tena programme taau e tuatua mai na, toku manako, e tiki koe i te aronga na ratou e akatere na i tena angaanga kia aere mai ratou kia tuatua i runga i te reva. Ei aa na matou e tuatua atu te openga e riro matou i te akaapa i tena angaanga Miss Cook Island ara no te mea kare tatou i kite tikai e aa tikai te tumuanga i riro mai ai e rua pupu, toku manako e mea manea tera, kia aere mai te aronga na ratou tena angaanga na ratou e akamarama mai ki te katoatoa,

thank you”.

Another caller expressed appreciation for having the subject brought on radio as a talkback issue.

“Na roto i te aranui, kia ringi mai te tangata e manganui i te akakitekite i to ratou manako, te manako kua tano, te manako kua taravake, te vai atu ra penei, na teia, e titau mai i a ratou tikai teia nga pupu e rua, e ere mai e akakite ki te iti tangata e, e aa tikai te tikaanga kia kore oki i reira tatou e kopekope mai, kopekope mai, te vai ua ra oki te tikaanga. No reira te akameitaki atu nei au i a koe no tei apai mai koe i teia tuanga ki runga i te ratio”.

A listener rang and said that the recent MCIPA pageant had seven contestants competing and in her opinion it was a waste of time. She stated the other organisation have up to more than fourty contestants.

“Ae, e itu rai mea tamaine i piri ki roto i ta ratou contest, kare i paunaia te taime, maata te tamariki tamaine out there. I tetai pupu, pinga tikai ta ratou tamariki tamaine. Kua apai mai ratou ki te ngai okotai te au tu tamariki tamaine i to tatou pae, kua taeria paa te `ā ngauru e ara atu te tamariki tamaine. Ko teia pupu, e itu rai tamaine, ko te reira ua rai te tamariki tamaine i to tatou pae moana?”

In the recent pageant MCIPA crowned Felicia George as the new Miss Cook Islands.

She will represent the country in the Miss South Pacific Pageant.

MCIPA will host the Miss South Pacific Pageant here in the Cook Islands in December this year.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks all callers to the programme and wish Felicia George all the best in the Miss South Pacific Pageant in December.



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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:

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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

Little Polynesian – Tikioki

Review Date: Wed 23rd Sept

The warm embrace of Te Tika and Jeannine still greet you as you enter the main foyer of the Little Polynesian Resort. We were excited to be asked to do the review of the ROY menu presented by Jacqueline and her staff having seen a sneak preview via email the night before.

As is often the case, a Southerly was blowing and despite our intention to stay in the private Are the staff had set up for us, it was just too cold. Augustine promptly set us up an alternative table right next to the bar and brought us our pre dinner drinks.

We were a party of 4 with 2 choosing to try the ROY menu and the other 2 a la carte. The

Entrée consisted of braised Eke carpaccio thinly sliced with lime infused coconut oil and a hint of chilly. The matching wine from The Bond Store was the Yealands Sauvignon Blanc. The Eke melted in your mouth and the zing of the lime coconut oil and the Sauv Blanc blended perfectly on the pallet. Needless to say those not having the ROY menu wanted to know what all the ohh and ahh sounds were about so promptly helped themselves to a sample. All agreed that the dinner was off to a very impressive start.

Next up was the Ika Moana (Tuna) served perched on top of a herbed maniota cake, a bed of onion and garlicrukau, a spicy green pawpaw salad and

drizzled with cultured coconut yoghurt. The wine match for the Main course was the always fabulous Jules Taylor Pinot Gris, again from The Bond Store. Being someone who always asks for my tuna rare I was surprised when I cut into my dinner and it was cooked through. This had me slightly worried; however this feeling disappeared as soon as I took my first generous mouthful. The flavour burst of these foods blending together was so amazing I soon forgot about my tuna being well done.

Having polished off both our entrée and main (and leaving nice clean plates) we were presented with the Nu Takarari in a martini glass. This very clever invention was as local

as you could get in terms of ingredients. The nu flesh was cooked the traditional way with pi'a (starch) and made up the base of the pudding, next came a layer of sautéed banana infused in vanilla liqueur, another layer of pawpaw, mango and berry coulis and topped off with the most divine spun coconut cream rito. The beverage for this course was a tall glass of refreshing uto juice.

An all-round fantastic effort from the staff at Little Polynesian who were attentive and welcoming from the moment we arrived until we left. Jacqueline and her team are to be commended on the innovative way they presented their local menu.

PROUD TO BE A FINALIST IN THE RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2015

VOTE FOR LITTLE POLYNESIAN RESORT



LITTLE POLYNESIAN



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Kathrine Reid of Tivaevae collectables selling at the market

Anne and Kathrine Reid (mother and daughter) started Tivaevae Collectables in 2005 with the invaluable help of Don Reid who has been our company mentor. Together we saw a gap in the market for Pacific influenced bedcovers. The resorts of Rarotonga, in particular, needed quality hard wearing, machine washable bedcovers with the WOW factor and it has been our pleasure to create beautiful Tivaevae products.

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Most money transfer businesses, whether they be a bank, **Western Union** or private financial company are the targets of scammers and fraudulent activists. **Western Union** is vigilant when trying to protect our clients and our agencies from falling victim to scammers and fraudsters.

Most scams come via email, mobile phones, text messages, face book, twitter and postal services. Some common examples to watch out for are:



Lotteries/scratch card winners

No one who wins a lottery or is claiming a prize has to make payment to get their winnings. If the person who has contacted you says it's for this, then refuse to send money. You are being scammed.



Immigration Fee

This is when the victim has a phone call from "Immigration" advising them that their paperwork is not in order and that they must make a payment to fix it. The phone number appears to be genuine but it is not.



Romance Scams

These are hard to stop. The victim can be hurt as they may have strong feelings for this person. The reality is that there are "boiler rooms" where many people in a call centre type environment with many phones contact lots of people and initiate online relationships. After these relationships have progressed for a while, they advise that they are experiencing difficult times, or bad things have happened to them. This is

where an when they plead/beg or "pull the heart strings" for some emergency assistance i.e. Money via Western Union. It is always a plea for money AND most requests insist on the money to be sent using Western Union. Why? Because Western Union is Person-to-Person and fast!

If you do receive emails from countries such as West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, just to name a few) or from the USA or in that fact from anywhere, please be alarmed and raise your concerns with your local Western Union agency



Fake emergencies

People often get email messages from a friend or family member they trust claiming they are stranded or needing money sent to an account because of muggings, robberies etc. The truth is your friends and family are probably fine but a hacker has gained access to their email account and contacts list.



On-Line Fraud

These emails trick people into giving out their private information, such as addresses, banking details, passwords or PINs.



Every day, millions of consumers rely on **Western Union Money Transfer** services to send money to loved ones near and far. If consumers are sending money to someone they don't know personally, they could be putting themselves at risk for fraud. At **Western Union**, we value the consumers who use our services. That's why we remind consumers to protect themselves and their hard-earned money. If you think you are being targeted as a victim of a scam then please contact your local **Western Union**. We are only too happy to answer any questions regarding scams.

If you suspect you have been a victim of a scam you can call our helpful team at Western Union on (+682) 27707

Pink October starts Thursday

By Jaewynn McKay

Pink October kicks off on Thursday morning with a Breakfast with the Maori Queen of Cuisine, breast cancer survivor and NZ Breast Cancer Foundation Ambassador – Anne Thorp.

As all tickets to the event have sold out, it has been decided to hold an after work event on Friday 2nd October at The Anchorage. At this event Anne will give a different speech to the one she gives at the Breakfast.

Tickets for Friday's event have been printed and are \$30 – which covers 2 drinks, finger food and a donation of \$5 to CIBCF.

The tickets are double sided and have one of Anne's recipes on the back.

Tickets can be purchased from any Board members and reserved via return email.

The other "event" timed to farewell PINK October for another year is a "50 Muumuus for 50 Years" dinner (and dance) at the New Zealand High Commissioner's Residence, Ngatipa with hosts HE Nick and Christine Hurley.

Tickets to this event will be printed this week and will cost \$50. You can expect a drink on arrival, a 2 course dinner, string band, guest speaker, spot prizes and of course a display of Muumuus from yesteryear and today. If you happen to have a favourite or vintage Muumuu you would be happy to have displayed on the night, please contact Sonya Kamana on 50 825. Tickets to this dinner are limited to 100.

There will be a large basket of goodies raffled at each event – each basket will have goods and vouchers to the value of around \$1000 – so please bring a little extra cash with you.

In between these events at the beginning and the end of October, the Foundation will run its Saturday stall at the Punanganui – this year you will find it on the "old stage", often referred to as the band rotunda. Anne Thorp will be helping out there next Saturday.

There's also "Ura Fitness with Avera" on the 7 October and a "Yoga with Victoria" session on 14 October.



Anne Thorp



Pink OCTOBER 2015

Join

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*Maori Queen of Cuisine, Breast Cancer Survivor,
NZ Breast Cancer Ambassador*

for Cocktails & Finger Food

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Tickets \$30

\$5 from every ticket goes to the CIBCF

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For tickets
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Jaewynn on
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Letter to the Editor

MFEM Act Review

Dear Editor

I read with interest (CIS News 17 Sept) that we have a consultant here who is going to assist Financial Secretary Neves to review the workings of the MFEM Act. Well, firstly, I hope he is smarter than the lot who put the first draft together in 1996 because it was a mess and had to be withdrawn from Parliament and extensive changes made to it. This quote from the MFEM website, repeated in the CIS News article about the present review does, however, not augur well- *"Financial processes and systems in the Cook Islands are reasonably strong as evidenced by the 2014 which has now been finalised and expected to be published shortly."*

What exactly does that mean? Apart from questioning the accuracy of the description 'reasonably strong' one is left to presume that there is a missing reference to the preliminary outcome mentioned a little further on that had been provided to development partners and should that be so would it not be a reasonable proposition that before 'seeking feedback from community stakeholders' that it might be a good idea to see what has already been prepared and released to others or are the stakeholders expected to give input in a vacuum?

So, working within that vacuum I have these comments and observations although I am not at all sure MFEM should be reviewing its own Act for the reasons you are about to read..

While I agree the MFEM Act needs a review a far more pressing and urgent review is required of the performance of the people who administer it and how they view and discharge their responsibilities to Parliament and the public under that Act and the Constitution. It is this which gives substance to the suspicion that the speed, debate curtailment and collusion with the Chair which attend the obscene rush through Parliament of appropriations,

without examination or scrutiny, that the administration is up to no good and the more quickly it can get these measures through Parliament with as little examination as possible the greater the chances their misdeeds will avoid detection. Apart from the MP for Muri Enuu, James Beer and Teina Bishop no-one else appears to be on to their game. Minister Brown in a lame defence of this treatment by Government and the infrequency of Parliamentary sittings generally rested on the constant need to be watching their numbers and the risk of a confidence question or an Opposition walkout and a constitutional crisis (Matariki interview 23 September)

And what is that Game?

No responsible organisation would be expected to agree to a budget without having the previous year's performance in front of it. Financial Statements and the Report of the Government Auditors should also be an annual event as the Constitution requires. In recent times both those requirements have been ignored. I haven't gone further back to see how long this has been going on and I don't intend to but no doubt the targets of this criticism will because they have already shown a propensity for this style of pathetic defence (the 'it has been done before' syndrome) but the fact remains it doesn't matter if it has been done before it is being done now on their watch and it is they who are being called to account.

When it was proposed to change the auditor of the Cook Islands Government Account from the NZ Audit Office to the local Audit Office back in 1991 the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, GA Henry had these words-

"It is a terribly poor administration when we allow ourselves to get into a situation where Audit Reports are two years late. We have a duty to provide Parliament, including members of the Opposition and

members of the public with an opportunity to see as quickly as possible a Report on the state of the Government Finances, a Report on how Government spends Public Money."

Two years late! What luxury. My frustrated enquiries with an equally frustrated parliamentary staff have not been able to establish when the last Audit Report and Financial Statements were presented to Parliament but it would appear those for the year ended 30 June 2011 are due to be when Parliament next meets. FOUR financial years late! This is a clear breach of Constitution Article 72(2) and the MFEM Act and would constitute an offence under S.64.

Before Parliament passes an Appropriation Bill it requires the following documents before it in order to responsibly perform its functions and its check on the Executive:

-the Bill; the Estimates; actuals for the previous year; statements of sums under-expended or over-expended pursuant to Article 70 (3) of the Constitution and, ideally the Financial Statements for the previous year and the Audit report thereon although timing could be an issue there provided they do come;

But what does it get:

-just the Bill and the Estimates
What does it not get:

-actual expenditure for the previous year, the Article 70(3) information. and no sign of the Financial Statements and Audit Report for several years,

This makes a mockery, and is an undermining, of the institution of Parliament and one of its most important functions and ultimate responsibility falls squarely upon the Minister, his Cabinet colleagues and his officials.

In NZ the Appropriation (Estimates) Bill is introduced into Parliament before the new financial year begins with estimated actuals for the year about to end with the other required documentation

coming to Parliament as the new year progresses with the Appropriation process being completed by August well into the new year and after considerable scrutiny in the House and Committee. The Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor General thereon are required to be available for Parliament by October not four years later like here, if we are lucky.

For the 2015-16 financial year Government here introduces and forces the passage of the Appropriation Bill through Parliament before the previous financial year has even ended, with no supporting documentation and information and by manipulating procedure, and the Chair, allows no scrutiny despite Standing Orders requiring 10 sitting days for that important function. Then, as the year advances, is it any wonder that there is general amazement at how and where public money is being spent. It is of course because no-one, least of all Members of Parliament, were ever given an opportunity to question where the money was intended to be spent and when it is found that in its haste there are numerous matters which were inadequately, or unprovided for, Government steps outside the law and adopts incorrect procedures (Executive Council, transfers) to get its way and cooks the books to cover its tracks (see below).

All the haste is unnecessary. The reason we have in our Constitution the provisions of Article 70(3)(a), which is the authority to spend in anticipation of appropriation, is to allow the financial needs of Government to be met while an efficient and effective Executive gets the other material together. Clearly we do not have an efficient and effective Executive and because of this we have developed a culture which ignores legal requirements and flourishes because no-one has called the Executive and the

Continued next page

administrators to task. This I am now attempting to do.

Law Breaking- On my analysis the law has been broken multiple times.

a) The Constitution for failing to annually provide audited accounts to Parliament

b) The Constitution for failing to provide statements of unauthorised expenditure to Parliament

c) The MFEM Act for these failures

d) The MFEM Act for failing to provide Parliament with Financial Statements in a timely manner

e) The MFEM Act for introducing and passing the 2015-16 Appropriation Bill before the year to which it relates had even begun

f) The Constitution and the MFEM Act for exceeding the 1.5% limit on unauthorised expenditure and wrongly believing these excesses can be offset by savings

g) The MFEM Act for transferring sums from one Ministry to another without the authority of Parliament

h) The MFEM Act for making those Manihiki land payments from compensation moneys without the approval of Parliament the payments being outside the scope of the reasons for which those moneys had been appropriated

i) The MFEM Act for attempting to attribute to the Manihiki payments an impression of legitimacy by claiming the payments were loans and thereby captured by S.58 when in fact by virtue of (h) above that section of the Act would be unavailable because the payments could not satisfy the requirement that there be a supporting appropriation

j) The MFEM Act for the giving of false and misleading Statements of Responsibility and declarations as to the integrity of the information provided to Parliament.

k) The MFEM Act for the payment to Pacific Schooners Limited (PSL) for which there was no appropriation and had there been the Prime Minister's announcement that MFEM could achieve contract performance by the movement of accumulated freight would have been outside the scope and thus in breach of any such appropriation anyway. If there

is any truth to the rumour that the \$200,000 deposit has been repaid rather than give comfort this is actually another cause for concern because why has the Government not rushed to announce it. Either it is not true or there is more potential scandal lurking there. Consensus is that PSL is broke and would not have the money itself to fund the reimbursement leaving one to conjecture who has come to the aid of this stricken company. Given the adverse publicity I doubt that the renown commercial predators that operate here would be interested so that would leave the Banks. It would be unlikely to appeal to either of the overseas banks, Westpac/BSP or ANZ leaving just BCI? Would good banking practice recommend their involvement? Not if they were smart but pause and examine the membership of the Board and the government connections there and you might have a different opinion. And then who is Chairman of the CIIC which oversee all SOEs of which BCI is one and you can begin to recognise the possibilities. And should BCI have succumbed to pressure what is its security? A ship? A defunct contract? By virtue of the fact the BCI is a State Owned Enterprise it has responsibilities to the people of the Cook Islands. Would it be discharging these in the best interest of those people?

Executive Council and Unauthorised Expenditure- If the above issues are not serious enough consider this:

There are a number of Executive Council Minutes out in the public domain which relate to approvals to spend public money outside or beyond the sums appropriated by Parliament. Such approvals must stay within the constitutional 1.5% limit. Failure to do so could invite suit for recovery from the guilty party(ies).

Putting aside the misconceived notion that the Executive Council procedure is the correct method for obtaining such approvals, all such decisions and sums are required to be reported to Parliament. They were not when the opportunity was there in June when Government presented its Budget for 2015/16 even though some approvals had

previously been released to the media (New Currency;

Civil List; Schools Security; Social Impact Fund; e-Waste Collection; Emergency Response Fund; Purchase of New Cars) .We do not, however, know what other decisions have been made in this category as an OIA requesting this information is not receiving the proper statutory attention and the parties from whom this information is being sought are already out of time and are not communicating despite the intercession now of the Ombudsman. The writer has heard that the Executive is nervous about some of these decisions getting further public attention which does not sit well when there is a statutory duty for them to be in the public domain and the official dilatoriness would therefore tend to support the suspicion that the Executive has something to hide There have to be grave consequences because withholding Constitutionally required information from Parliament is a very serious matter.

Which certainly appears to be the case. The Executive Council Minutes that I have seen confirm there was no appropriation in the 2014/15 Estimates for a number of new expenditures e.g. New currency \$1.01m; team to Pacific Games 0.235m; Maeva Nui transporation\$1.3m; Hosting TMN participation at schools \$0.485m; School Security 0.285m) which would explain why they took the unauthorised route but one needs to question why then at Schedule 8 , pages 183-186 of the 2015/16 Budget Book 1 there is showing these same sums as having been appropriated in the 2014/15 period. This is simply not true and smacks very seriously like someone is falsifying the record because if there were an appropriation for the same sums (and there wasn't) there would be no need for the Executive Council charade and one is left with the very strong suspicion that what is happening here is the books are getting cooked to give the appearance that there is no excessive unauthorised expenditure and that Government is within the legal limit. This would suggest that maybe there has been a sudden realisation that someones' heads could roll and, when

you consider this proposition in light of the unseemly haste with which the Government/ Speaker liaison forced the Bill and Estimates through the House, one might be forgiven for thinking that Government was engaged in a Machiavellian concealment exercise and did not want its exposure to be discovered nor revealed. Conversely there might be a plausible explanation for these strange happenings and if there is the public is entitled to know what it is because from where I am sitting it does not look good.

Watchdogs- Which brings me to the question. Where are Parliament's watchdogs, PERC and Audit? If my criticisms are justified it should not need a member of the public to bring these many matters into contention - our watchdogs should have been onto these ages ago. Their failure has allowed the Executive to continue to abuse the system and the damage to Parliament supremacy over the Executive and the control of the public purse is immeasurable.

NZ Audit-Any suggestion that the NZ Government becomes more involved in our affairs kindles howls of protest and scorn but when we consider the ineffectualness of our watchdog institutions, the abuse by the Executive and what it is costing us, not just in monetary terms but the erosion of parliamentary democracy, perhaps it is time for a rethink. We need independent, timely, reliable checks on government spending and we are not getting it. It is my proposition that we approach NZ as to whether it would be prepared to resume the auditing of our accounts with our audit office as its local arm. At the same time we should reactivate the original intention of the Constitution to have a Public Expenditure Committee comprised predominately of parliamentarians and take a lesson from

the NZ practice which has embraced stronger policing by Parliament and Committees of the actions of the Executive. Initially PERC should work with this Committee but as it matures should be dismantled Interim legislative changes would be needed. In the same vein I would endorse the

Continued next page

comments on TV by Norman George. We need effective parliamentarians possessed of a wider, more national issues knowledge/interest qualification than the parochial candidates the present political system produces. National seats or grouping of small constituencies to spread the net for more capable people to dilute this provincial influence are a desperate precondition to political change because the present system and imbalance just breeds complacency, corruption and contempt for the rule of law

Other matters before I close.

POBOC and the Budgetary Format- POBOC is a misused and confusing term. Surely every payment from the Public Account is a Payment on behalf of the Crown. What else could it be? Although we seem to have adopted the term from NZ that country has long since streamlined its processes and the empowerment of Parliament and abandoned its use..But even in adopting the term we could not get it right. As I explained in an earlier letter, expenditure may only be approved by -the Constitution, a permanent appropriation or in an Appropriation Bill. Right now all manner of stuff is dumped under the POBOC heading including permanent appropriations which do not need further appropriation. POBOC needs rationalising. It seems to have become a catchall wash up depository for expenditure that has no other home and in the process removes from Parliament's direct scrutiny the proposed expenditure for any Ministry which more desirably should be all in one place because right now it is a minefield necessitating searching through masses of material to obtain the final picture. Perhaps that is part of the strategy- to make the exercise so mind boggling that the poor MPs give up. Budget documentation needs to be more user friendly and coordinated because as has been illustrated above the current presentation provides too many opportunities to hide things..

Scope- We also need something like this provision in the NZ Public Finance Act 1989 in our MFEM Act.

9 Appropriation limited by scope

(1) The authority to incur expenses or capital expenditure provided by an appropriation—

(a) is limited to the scope of the appropriation; and

(b) may not be used for any other purpose.

Then we need to add these qualifications which come from the NZ Treasury's Guide to Appropriations.

-The purpose of a Scope Statement is to provide an effective constraint against unauthorised activity while not inappropriately constraining activity intended to be authorised and

- Scope establishes the legal boundary of what an appropriation can be used for and, by omission, what it cannot.

Although we lack these provisions here there would appear to be some inherent recognition that there are limits, even in their absence, evidenced by the hasty rearrangement of the charging details for the Manihiki land payments and, if there had been a specific appropriation to support the PSL deposit, its scope would have been unlikely to have extended to authorising a payment to an unlicensed, foreign owned vessel incapable of performing the tasks required of it.

PEFA-I have not read the Public Expenditure Accountability (PEFA) assessments but I have to ask which planet did those people visit when they reported 'several improvements had been made since 2011, particularly in the area of budget credibility...'. Makes one wonder - how bad was it before?

Then we hear Minister Brown boasting on Matariki FM (23Sept) that there had been great improvement with 28 identified weaknesses down to 3 and that we were a leading example in the region. Really Minister! Then how bad does that make the other countries?

Words are Cheap-Prime Minister Henry on the HOMs appointments-

- 'But in the end we have acknowledged that the law must be obeyed...we cannot break the law' and Minister Brown in answer to a question on Matariki FM what would happen if Government exceeded the 1.5% limit-

FM-'Last week I put a question

to the Financial Secretary on the question of... it is a "what if" question Minister. What if you discovered later that the Executive Council had gone beyond its authority of the 1.5% in approving extra spending?

MB 'You mean has approved more than 1.5%?

FM 'Yes'

MB ' Well it can't do that- don't know what would happen. Can't see it happening. You know what 1.5% is so there is no way you would be able to get a paper to the Executive Council which asks you to spend more than 1.5%. You would be breaking the law'.

FM 'It would be breaking the law if the Executive Council went beyond its 1.5% authority?'

MB Yes that's what I would think.' (9 Sept)

and then again on 23 Sept when asked by FM his opinion on the Financial Secretary

MB 'Richard Neves has a very strong commitment to making sure that public moneys are protected and that they go through proper process of being utilised for the right purpose and that any decisions on public funds- decisions on spending- should be done by the proper authorities and the proper authorities on expenditures are firstly the Cabinet and then the Parliament

and that's how it works.....'

Classic cases of politicians saying one thing and doing another!

Conclusion- If it were a case of only some of what I have written here being correct it would still be a shocking indictment on a government that has gone completely off the rails and believes it is a law unto itself. Quite aside from Peter Etches very sensible suggestion (Cis News 26 August) that James Beer's Judicial Review application should be widened to include other issues such as this there is an added dimension which I wish to conclude this piece on.

There is enough evidence to warrant the Queen's Representative invoking his reserve powers to call Parliament together if not just to test the confidence of the government but to consider a resolution authorising a complete auditing of government finances preferably by the NZ Audit Office. Such a proposal would challenge members to distinguish between blind obedience to their disgraced party leaders or to discover some principle and backbone and do their duty by the people they are supposed to represent.

John M Scott

29 September 2015

PAMATI RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to all who supported the Pamati Hostel raffle on Saturday 26th Sept 2015, drawn at Punanga Nui

Prize Winners were:

- 1st Baby Ka Tkt 461
- 2nd Jimmy (Barnes) Temu Marsters Tkt 150
- 3rd E. Pirangi Tkt 754
- 4th Tangaroa Hoteyes Tkt 688
- 5th E. Pirangi Tkt 738
- 6th Marangi Torget Tkt 179
- 7th Tutu Pokoina Tkt 553
- 8th Baby Tupapa Tkt 123

Consolations Prizes -ctn Chicken

- Haumata Hosking tkt 648
- S. Marsters Tkt 623
- Tarani- Tutu Pokoina Tkt 556
- Baby - Apii Ben Tkt 682

Meitaki Maata

QR. H.E Tom J Marsters

Chairman Palmerston Island Hostel Charitable Trust

The case for cannabis reform in the Cook Islands – Part II of II



The worldwide debate around the decriminalisation of marijuana is about money, influence, bottom lines and misinformation. Some of the vested interests who are not supporting

the decriminalisation of marijuana are of course the pharmaceutical companies. Do you think they care about us personally? If you believe that you'll believe 'Tinkerbell and Peter Pan' are real. The promotion of drugs by pharmaceutical companies worldwide is not about philanthropy on the part of those companies. Remember how many billions the tobacco industry spent defending their nicotine killing products and how long that took and how much power and influence they used to defend their position. It wasn't politicians that took the tobacco companies on initially, because government coffers were receiving huge sums of money from taxes and duties on tobacco products which were killing its own citizens. Hospitals, clinics and hospices were full of our grandparents, mums, dads, uncles, cousins and all manner of family, with ill-health through the consumption of tobacco products, usually cigarettes. Don't be too harsh on our governments, it's our own fault that we have got the laws that we have, even if it is at the cost of individual freedoms and choice. As voters we want harsher penalties for criminals, well people someone has to pay for their incarceration. Where does the government get this unbudgeted money from, well it's from us the tax payer so up go the taxes to pay for this extra government spending. Remember the days of tobacco sponsorship of major sporting events, names such as Benson and Hedges, Rothmans and Marlborough; well they are all consigned to history. It was the ordinary person who took the tobacco companies and their own governments on. It took many decades, the death of millions of people worldwide with health issues directly attributed to tobacco products, a new wave of politicians and a change in people's attitudes before the tobacco companies were brought to some semblance of heel.

So it is with pharmaceutical companies, governments and the medical and health sector. It is about the 100's of billions of dollars profit that is at stake if they can control what drugs governments legalise, buy, promote and sell to their citizens. Don't even believe the spin doctoring they do to promote their brand of product healthfulness. At the end of the day those CEO's and marketing experts all need to support their lifestyles and whilst they will tout that, 'I love my fellow man' mantra, they will not bite the hand that feeds them (well not too hard anyway). Being in league with pharmaceutical companies the health and medical sectors of our societies

wield huge influence over the lives and health of our citizens. Many medical health professionals are targeted, wined and dined and are influenced to promote the pharmaceutical companies drugs and products and they don't do this out of the goodness of their philanthropic hearts. Would you give up the gifts, presents, promotional materials, the weekends away, all expenses paid trips, research grants and facilities and networks that flow from beneficial relationships with these pharmaceutical companies. Damn right you wouldn't, yet these are the people we are supposed to entrust with our health. They cannot have a competing product such as medicinal marijuana or recreational marijuana because the common citizen would be able to grow their own and treat themselves at a fraction of the cost. We can't have this now can we? So the pharmaceutical companies with their medical profession sycophants lobby governments, legislators, Police, and any other influential groups to ensure that the laws governing marijuana stay as they are. They produce carefully constructed scientific evidence to paint marijuana use and users in a bad light. The government agencies tasked with enforcing the law are only too happy to promote marijuana as the greatest evil of our times and through misinformation, selective text and scaremongering, help stoke the fires of hysteria against marijuana use. Like all prohibitions, where there is a need, someone invariably fills the vacuum. This is where the criminal element comes in because they can fill that void. They charge exorbitant prices for marijuana and their buyers buy without any qualms. They charge these prices because they take the risk and because they can and because they have a ready market for marijuana. Make marijuana a criminal offence and people will go out of their way to obtain it no matter the consequences. Your average person will not indulge, but of course our society is made up of those who will take the risk of being caught. If you want to remove the criminal element and the crime that runs with this, then governments should look at marijuana use as a social and health issue just like cigarettes and give people the option of whether they want to indulge or not and tax it.

While you have been reading this article, since yesterday morning thousands and thousands of people worldwide have died from using a popular recreational drug. Guess what, it's not marijuana, and marijuana has never been recorded as being a direct cause of death, but alcohol has. There are three recreational drugs that are legal and cause the most personal and social pain, misery and hardship imaginable:

- Alcohol
- Nicotine
- Caffeine

In no particular order, alcohol is the drug of choice for hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Nicotine or cigarette smoking and

also caffeine the stimulant in coffee and over the counter energy drinks are also the choice for hundreds of millions of people. And you were worried about marijuana use, yet you drink or ingest the above drugs with little or no thought to what they are doing to you long term. You also smoke, expose your children and others to secondary smoke and please I won't kiss an ashtray for all the money in the world. For you non-smokers out there, do you enjoy your smoking partner's tongue shoved down your throat when they are getting amorous? No? Well do something about it. Also for you drinkers of 'V', coke and other caffeine laced drinks, how many of you give these to your children and think nothing of it. So you think it's funny, them bouncing off the walls or unable to sleep or concentrate because of their massive intake of caffeine during their development years and you thought marijuana was bad.

You will also read in the CI News that most vehicle accidents, domestic violence and fighting in public are attributed to the consumption of alcohol and never to the consumption of marijuana. Amazing really when you actively condone alcohol drinking which we know can cause misery and long term consequences for those exposed to out of control drinkers, yet you condemn marijuana smokers in the same breath. Ever seen a driver influenced by alcohol and compare that to a driver influenced by marijuana. Depending on how much alcohol has been ingested will determine whether the person drives like a maniac or drifts sideways across the road like a snake. The marijuana influenced driver believes that they are driving faster than they actually are and drive overly cautiously because they are paranoid that they will be pulled over by the Police. The alcohol influenced driver doesn't care and has lost their inhibitions. They are more likely to speed off when challenged by the Police, whilst the marijuana influenced driver, freaks out and pulls over and tries to be on their best behaviour.

The debate around decriminalising cannabis is about two schools of thought, those who are pro and those who are anti, with a third party, the government being the referee or adjudicator on the side. Throw into this mix the drug companies and our health professionals. The longer the debate goes on, the more entrenched are those who oppose the move and the more the government takes the stance of deciding what's best for its citizens. The influence of vested interests is a global phenomenon as huge sums of money are involved in ensuring marijuana is legislated out of existence. Funny thing is that humans when denied freedom of choice, will take other measures to circumvent what they see as a fundamental denial of their rights to make an informed choice about marijuana use. Hey don't believe what I say, go find out for yourself and not just about marijuana either also look up nicotine and caffeine, you may well get the surprise of your life.

Showing fairness

part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

This article is intended to encourage us to build our lives on one of the important values that have lasting positive impact on our lives which is "FAIRNESS"! There are those who ask the question of "Why should I be fair when everybody else is living for themselves, why shouldn't I just look after myself?" The truth is most people in society are not trying to be fair. They're thinking "How can I get what I need for my life the most?" The Bible is very clear that life itself is unfair. And because of sin, there is Unfairness! Injustice! The Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible written by the wisest man who ever lived - Solomon. Solomon goes through life and looks at everything. Then he said, "Here's my conclusion. Life is UNFAIR." Then he gives five common occurrences of unfairness.

First, Solomon said that he noticed "People are being let off!" that CRIMINALS GO UNPUNISHED. Ecclesiastes 3v.16 (LB) "Throughout the earth justice is giving way to crime and even the courts are corrupt." From the time of King Solomon till now nothing much has changed. Many criminals don't get what they deserve. Ecclesiastes 8v.11 (NLT) "When crime isn't punished, people feel it is safe to do wrong." This verse is so relevant for us today. Just watching what happens in the world on TV, in the newspapers, you can figure out three or four things: 1) If you commit a crime, it's very unlikely that you're going to go to jail for it. Given enough money, all you have to do is hire the right lawyer and they'll find some technicality in the law to get you off the charge. 2) Often it's going to be years before you go to trial. A crime is committed and then you find out the verdict years later. 3) During that time you can sell your story to book writers and movie rights if you're in the United States of America - especially if it's an interesting and highly publicized crime. e.g. a couple in Australia claim their baby was killed by a dog (dingo). 4) If you do get convicted, you probably will not serve a full sentence because of the likelihood you'll get off in a few years on parole and you can go out and do it again. Solomon says I see all this happening that criminals go

unpunished and at the same time the victims and the victims families suffer and that's not fair. And Solomon is right!

Secondly, Solomon says, THE OPPRESSED ARE NOT BEING HELPED IN THE WORLD. Eccl. 4v.1 (GN) "I saw all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying and no one would help them. Their oppressors had power." Solomon is saying that it is human nature for human beings to try to dominate each other. One nation tries to dominate another nation, or one race tries to dominate another race, or the rich trying to dominate the poor, or the powerful trying to dominate the weak, and men trying to dominate women. Even in some countries Christians can be killed for claiming to be followers of Jesus Christ. This normally is the trend almost every year around the world where thousands of Christians were killed! Solomon is saying this is not fair. And he is right.

Thirdly, Solomon says, MANY RULERS OR PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY ARE UNETHICAL (CORRUPT). Ecclesiastes 5v.8 (LB) "If you see miscarriage of justice throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up. So the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy." One of the things about the Bible is that it always tells the truth. Ecclesiastes 10v.5-6 (GN) "Here is an injustice... Stupid people are given positions of authority..." The Bible says when ungodly people hold positions of authority they are going to abuse it and Solomon says that's unfair. And he's right.

Fourthly, Solomon says, GOOD PEOPLE GO UNREWARDED while evil people often prosper. Ecclesiastes 8v.14 (GWT) "Sometimes righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve!" Solomon is talking about good things happening to bad people and bad things happening to good people?" It doesn't seem right. There are also times when dishonest people get promoted while honest people are overlooked. Solomon says that's not fair. Have you ever been to a funeral of a good person, a young person and think, "Why did they die?" when you could think of

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

a dozen other persons whom you'd rather see in the casket? Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 7v.15 "It's unfair that some good people die young while some wicked people live on and on and on." And it's true.

Fifthly, Solomon says, CAPABLE PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNSUCCESSFUL. Just because you've got talent doesn't mean you're going to succeed. The good guys don't always win in this world. Eccl. 9v.11 (GN) "In this world fast runners do not always win the races. Wise men do not always earn a living, intelligent men don't always get rich, and capable men do not always rise to high positions." He says, "fast runners don't always win the race". Sometimes at the Olympic Games we hear stories like, "on

the day of the race, they sprain their ankle; or they have an accident; or they get the flu; or they missed the race because they were late." After all that effort they've put in training for years, something happens and they miss it? Solomon says, "Intelligent people don't always get rich." In some cultures Boxers are paid more than what the Accountants or Chief Administration Officers gets. Even rugby or soccer players are paid more than the teachers who train children. Solomon says, the bottom line is life isn't fair!

Solomon gives us five examples of what to do because of the unfairness of the life we live in! I will cover these in Part 2 of this article next week. God bless! Te Atua te aroa!

TENDER



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

Exams

By Hayley McNabb

I have locked down two exams and now have only one more to go. Though they are still only a practice before the real exams come along next term the pressure is still high. As I have only just realized and remembered what exams actually feel like the nerves are starting to return. I am quite confident with the tests though and the questions that may appear in the papers but it is just the fact that we have three hours to finish and it is not always as easy as you may think because the time just flies past each time you look at the clock. But once you hear the sound of the clock's alarm telling you that the time is up and when you look at what you have accomplished, a sense of relief and pride triggers inside you knowing that you have achieved the best you could have and now there is nothing to worry about anymore.

I had my English exam on Monday and that went pretty well. I had to write two essays, one based on The Dark Knight which was a film we studied in class and the other on a novel written by Larry Watson which is called Montana 1948. I was a bit more positive about writing The Dark Knight essay as it was easier to answer the questions provided and I had more knowledge with it. The Montana 1948 essay was not that bad but it was just the trouble of trying to remember quotes word for word or close to the right thing anyway.

On Tuesday was my Accounting exam and that was better than what I thought it would have been. I had two papers for this; one of them was about the ratios and percentages of a business's sales, profit, expenses and much more. There were also things about how a business can improve these percentages and ratios if they are not happy with them so it can help them improve as a business also. The other paper however was about the accounting concepts and how certain financial processes are recorded in statements for a business.

My last exam will be on Thursday and it is for Economics. The topics are about inflation, employment and trade and how they all relate to one another. I am the most confident with this one because I think I am doing well at these topics as I am finding it easy to understand.

So I am pretty happy with what I have done so far and I hope that when it comes down to the real exams I will be able to get better results. Next term will be a time of studying as I haven't actually done a lot for these exams. I will focus on the things I have a little bit of difficulty with like remembering quotes for the English exams, calculations for accounting, which way the curves move on a graph for economics and everything that will just help me to achieve good grades.

Ex-Ams

By Lucianne Vainerere

Here's what's happening at the National College this week. NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 are sitting their mock exams and it is stressful. But obviously, when were they never? Exams are pretty serious and the end result is all about how much you understand what you're doing and how it's done. It's a really long process that starts with yourself then leads to your interests, jumps to your passions, then to your heart, your mind, to your hand and straight on paper (long process short).

For some of us we take it all in differently, we analyse our strengths, deal with our weaknesses by paying it some attention to an extent where it frustrates you too much that you stare at it blankly. That's me. Unfortunately. Others take it in more fluently and deal with it much, much easier. Studying for them is re-reading over notes and doing practice exam questions or simply photographic memory. Or even simpler, they're super duper smart. You choose. But then it leads back to you and how you discipline yourself, and how serious you are about your future and what career you're more passionate to pursue.

I admire a lot of my peers during this time of the year, the way they handle activities and how less stressful things are when they aren't juggling so many plates at once. So how do you balance school, work, social life, home, church all at once and stay committed to all your responsibilities within them so that when it comes to exams you're all good? Good question but I have no answer that'll let you win, either subtract and lessen the load or demand for a class called 'LIFE 101' where they teach you how to save up, and work out life hacks to make things easier. If only.

If you're like me, where studying is not your thing, and you've been best friends with cramming for as long as you can remember then good luck my friend with trying to pass exams on a seriously high note. If you really enjoy a particular subject then studying is easier for you because you know your subject well and it's a total breeze.

To all the seniors out there I hope you all did well for your mock exams, and remember that this grade you get won't necessarily determine your end of year results UNLESS you let it.

Let me tell you a story about an ex we ALL have in common. The only person who will cause you so much stress, so much frustration and bring you to tears while playing with your mind and emotions. The only person who will make you smile so bright and so glad that you feel like dancing. At the same time make you feel so miserable about yourself and insecure and vulnerable. The only person who will watch you from the beginning till the end whether you succeed or fail. Yeah I'm talking about EXAMS.

At the Arorangi /Reds game semi final at Happy Valley Makie Brown sat by himself ignored by the team, no booze because it's not election time. Only those on his payroll seemed to pay him any attention. At the Grand Final he got lost in the crowd of four people. Rugby certainly has got a long way to catch up with Rugby League and its volunteer helpers.



Makie Brown went public and said he didn't know how much Neves paid his friend Schooner Mikie. Two weeks after getting the PERC report on Schoonergate he said he hadn't read it, must be awfully close to the neglect of duty and what else hasn't he read. What else is Neves doing he doesn't know about, maybe it's time to get a new Minister of Finance who knows what's going on.



The Takuvaine sports codes were wondering what Makie is up to with the newly sealed netball court. Once there was two now there is one but facing the wrong way and almost up against the club room building. The land owner must of arranged that when the workers turned up, he's happy he's got his land back after all these years of the club encroaching on it by mistake years ago. That's what happens when your MP takes his eyes off the ball and is jet setting all around the world; he doesn't know what's happening in his own back yard.



Last Thursday night the Bulldozer four time loser Heta had a Bonding session at Richards place. Sounds like they have something in common.



Heta brothers had two cosy meetings early last week, Dithering Demo Smelly was told get signatures to show he had the numbers and the assurances that Bulldozer Teariki is to be the PM.



Mac's okay he's got another job, gets



Gath's job when he leaves Te Mato Vai to be the Fin Sec. Let's hope the PSC doesn't advertise it. In the mean time Mac will have the time to catch up on the taro patch and other domestic duties.



Out early one morning there was so much activity fish were virtually begging to be caught fishermen were overwhelmed by the friendly presence of whales, fearing consequence one mobile phoned his legal advisor and asked for an opinion on watching the great creatures of the deep. He was advised you can look at them but don't watch them. What do you mean? the fisherman asked, the lawyer's answer was its like unlawful and illegal they are the same thing but in a Court of law they are different.



Demos cancelled their weekly radio show last Friday because their incapable leader was incapacitated with inability due to a mystery back ailment or was it the \$1200 a week Drolley hadn't prepared anything? Isn't there anyone else in the Demos capable of going on air or were they all dithering hopping the media will do the job for them, no sooner they replace Smelly with Jimmy Larger the soon the Demos will awake from their slumber.



Elvis must be the biggest triple talking hypocrite ever, on the government's Radio

programme on Friday he was waffling about the recent occupation land issues telling people we must not act irrationally, or get excited or emotionally, not to get upset, but we have to be very careful and deal with our new land issue rationally and in a structured manner. What the biggest load of clap trap to come out of his mouth, why didn't he say this to his hysterical threatening thugs from his beloved Manihiki? He says I'm not abusing any power as he tries to justify his pathetic inexcusable actions.



Avatiu Eels supporters weren't happy about their comprehensive loss to the unbeaten Red machine from Takuvaine, champions for three years and undefeated for the last two performed before hardly any spectators. Seven players in total were Samoans who have made a huge contribution to the back peddling code who will struggle even more to attract spectators next season.



Talk about being insulted, on the country's number one Radio Cook Islands last Friday, Elvis tore strips off the daily tribble for their out of context shabby, twisted reporting but failed to mention this publication for all its lies as the CIP say is in it. Come on Elvis how about giving credit when it's due?



So tiny tad pole in the big Rarotonga

pool Mikie Enarie was lying all along, at a notorious waterfront establishment while trying to get accepted back into the Raro's most prestigious gossip circle claiming he had refunded the unconfirmed \$200,000 back to the Rarotonga taxpayers. Whatever he's paid \$1600 a week on Rarotonga to do has turned to crap, Mikie has brought a truck load of rooster poop to his friend Makie's door at a very heavy political cost. Who needs enemies when the three corrupters have friends like the greedy sponger Mikie?



One avid internet user is crowded off with Bluesky who are failing to deliver on their promises of a better and cheaper service. A regular \$50 wifi user they can't understand why there is a limit on prepaid internet use through wifi. This week the \$50 pre paid voucher was not for sale because they had run out, what a joke so they had to purchase a \$25 one which is really poor value for money, what a Bluescam rip off, bring back Telecom or give Kookie Cell ago, let's have some competition.



Now that Japan has thumped the Boks, lets throw down the challenge to the All Blacks, Wallabies and Pumas that we are ready! Look out for the Cookies, we are coming! Any day now! Bring it on!



Wouldn't our globetrotting PM Henri Foonah loved to have been at the 70th General Assembly of the UN to rub shoulders with the world's elite! Henri was upstaged by the Niuean Colin Tukituk, head sharang from the SPC, who attended a side session at the UN on Global Goals to mutter about SPC member islands sinking into the sea! He was chin wagging about the vulnerability of our Large Ocean Island States, more likely, Large Ocean Disappearing Island States!

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet is now wants Ministers to have a new loyalty allowance to fund community projects that reflect loyalty!

Loyalty to whom? What?



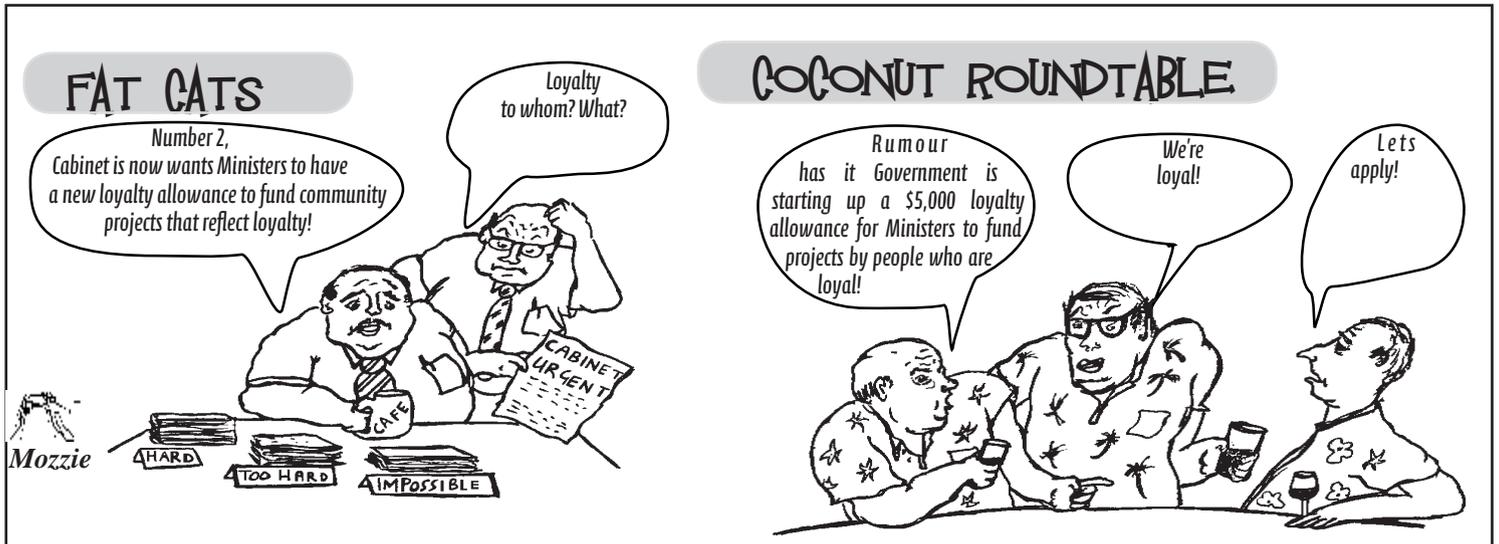
MOZIE
HARD
TOO HARD
IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government is starting up a \$5,000 loyalty allowance for Ministers to fund projects by people who are loyal!

We're loyal!

Lets apply!



VACANCY



**COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION
TRADE COORDINATOR**

Join the dynamic hardworking team at Cook Islands Tourism Corporation!

With the mandate to lead the nation in tourism, destination development and marketing, our team is looking for a bright, energetic, passionate individual to make a difference and help cultivate continued success in this economic sector.

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation invites applications for the position of Trade Coordinator.

The successful applicant will be reporting to the Marketing Manager – Head Office and will be required to coordinate and manage work programmes that service the sales and marketing requirements of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation and deliver an efficient support system to internal and external stakeholders.

Applicants must have the following expertise:

- Tertiary degree in a related field
- One year experience in the tourism industry or similar
- One year sound knowledge in project management
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to prioritize work and meet tight deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- Ability to multi-task and manage many projects at one time
- Ability to work within budget
- Excellent communication and written skills
- Advance knowledge in MS Office specifically MS Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint
- Sound knowledge in design software

The successful applicant will also need to demonstrate:

- A sound understanding of the different market needs and behaviours
- Ability to work outside of normal working hours and on the weekends to complete certain projects

A detailed job description can be requested by email to applications@cookislands.gov.ck

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Executive Assistant, PO Box 14, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Rarotonga or emailed to applications@cookislands.gov.ck
Applications close 2pm, Friday 09 October 2015.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



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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Accommodation to suit your budget

Self contained and self servicing
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**FROM \$35
PER NIGHT**

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VACANCY

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

Upholster – we are seeking an experienced upholster to complete a number of projects. Please call Charles 54023

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.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Date: 21 September 2015

Project Name: Transportation of Agricultural Equipment and Raw Materials to the Pa Enuva

Tender ID: 151614

Tenders close: Friday the 9th October 2015 at 3 p.m. The Development Coordination Division (DCD) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management invites suitably qualified freight forwarding service providers to tender for the delivery of Agricultural equipment and raw materials to the Pa Enuva. Tender documents can be picked up from DCD, Third Floor of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management in Avarua. Electronic copies of the tenders are available from the www.procurement.co.ck

All tenders are to be placed in the Tender Box at DCD, 3rd Floor, MFEM Building, Avarua by the closing date of Friday the 9th October 2015 at 3 p.m. For Tender Information or any queries relating to the tender documents please contact:
Tender Manager: Erina Korohina Ph: +682 29521
email: Erina.korohina@cookislands.gov.ck

The button that's eating up iPhone data

Some writers suspect a new feature in iOS9 could be causing unexpected data use. Photo / Getty Images

A new feature in Apple's iOS 9 could be causing a surprising spike in data use.

Keeping track of your data usage isn't always an easy thing to do. And now several iOS 9 users are questioning whether a feature in Apple's new operating system designed to keep your connection stable is a potential data sink in disguise.

The setting, called "WiFi Assist," automatically switches your phone over to the cellular network when you're in a place with spotty WiFi. The feature is on by default in iOS 9, meaning that your iPhones and iPads will seek out cell networks unless you tell them not to - and could potentially eat up your data plan without you realizing it.

Users such as Gizmodo writer Chris Mills have seen a jump in data use since downloading the new system. Mills said his data usage has risen by about one-third, and he suspects that WiFi Assist is the culprit:

"It's impossible to say if that extra usage is directly related to Wi-Fi Assist, but I have my suspicions.

On the iPhone 6s that I've only been using for three days, my data usage is at 950MB; half of that is from Netflix, which I make certain to never use when I'm on the go. In fact, the only time I've used it in the past couple days was at home, using what I thought was Wi-Fi."

From what Mills reports, it seems as though the problems start when users think they're somewhere with a good WiFi connection, but their phones beg to differ - leading to bill shock. Users concerned about that can

turn the feature off near the bottom of the "Cellular" section of their Settings app.

So can you avoid surprises in the future? The iPhone, just like many other phones, has a built-in counter that helps you keep track of what you're using. Apple's customer service forums are a little split on how accurate it is; some say it hews closely to what they see on their bills, while others say it is a little off. It's probably best to look at it as an estimate rather than a definitive tally and to check in with your carrier to see how much the company is billing you.

That said, it can be a handy snapshot. To find it, head to that same Cellular menu in your Settings app. Scroll down and you should see a section called "Cellular Data Usage" that gives you an estimate of how much data you've used since you last reset that counter. If you've never used this tool before, you've probably never reset it. To do so, head to the very bottom of the Cellular menu and hit "Reset Statistics."

You'll have to reset the counter manually - maybe when your bill comes each month.

You can also use this part of the Settings menu to keep certain apps from using cellular data at all. This menu lists all your apps, and you can decide, service by service, which apps you want to allow to use cellular data. (It's also handy for international travel, when you may be working on a really limited plan.)

Turning a few of these off - streaming video apps such as Netflix, for example - can cut down on your data usage. And if you find yourself really craving some "House of Cards" on the bus, you can easily flip that switch back on.

Cook Islands Jobs

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

This week's top vacancies from Cook Islands Jobs

- Housekeeper, Ikurangi Eco Retreat, Rarotonga
- Upholsterer, House of Rangihua, Rarotonga

For these roles and more, please visit www.cookislandsjobs.com

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Colombia emblem revealed

The Official Emblem for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 was unveiled on 29 September, in a festive event at the Hotel Dann Carlton in Cali.

The eighth edition of the competition, scheduled to be played from 10 September to 1 October 2016, will take place in the Colombian cities of Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga and Ibagué.

The OFC Futsal Championship is scheduled for February 2016 in Tahiti, with six sides so far confirmed to contest an increasingly coveted berth at Colombia 2016.

Among those present were Ramon Jesurún Franco, chairman of the Colombia 2016 Local Organising Committee (LOC); Luis Bedoya, deputy chairman of FIFA's Futsal Committee and the chairman of the Colombian Football Association (FCF), Rodrigo Guerrero Velasco, Mayor of Cali, Andrés Botero, Coldeportes Director, and Osmar Fonnegra, coach of the Colombian national team, among others. The event was hosted by Melina Ramírez and José Fernando Neira, presenters from Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN).

Jesurun Franco was first to address the audience. "We are very happy with the effort of the municipal authorities that made it possible for four cities to host this competition. Today, less than 365 days from the tournament, we have here in Cali a venue that will host the national team of Colombia. The World Cup starts today with this event, and with it we tell the country and FIFA we are ready," said the chairman of the LOC.



The Official Emblem for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016

Then, it was Bedoya who took the stand. "To give you an idea of the importance of this form of football, since the first FIFA Futsal World Cup in 1989, this will be only the second time there will be 24 national teams that will play 52 matches in 23 days. Colombia has been on board on this evolution: in 2011 we had the league for the first time with 12 teams, and now we have 16 sides. Besides, big companies and their brands have joined us. In Colombia we also breathe futsal", said the chairman of the FCF.

After a few words from Botero, who transmitted a message from the President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos, and a video about the four cities that will be the venues of the tournament, it was Velasco who delivered a message. "I feel satisfaction, pride and joy that Cali was chosen as a venue. This city has extraordinary sports scenarios, supports the leagues and its athletes, and

counts on fans that attend massively to sports activities. The sports unifies and surpasses barriers, something is needed in the world, and specially in Colombia", said the Mayor of Cali.

The moment everyone was waiting for came via another video, which formally launched both the emblem and the design imagery that will accompany the tournament.

The Official Emblem embodies Colombia's rich history, traditional culture and unique landscape. The design, based on the shape of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Official Trophy, takes a fresh direction with a fluid and abstract form and features the three colours of the Colombian national flag.

The base represents the two seas that meet the country's coastline – the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. The body comprises the rugged peaks of the Andes and the ancient culture's sacred Yurupari flute. The ball on top includes a

human element, showing the country's rich cultural diversity from ancient civilisations to the vibrancy and warm hospitality of the Colombian people today.

The design of the Official Look evokes the festive, carnival atmosphere and diverse mix of culture that Colombia and its people are known for. The visual elements of the look represent the rich cultural, geographical and historical diversity of the South American country.

Utilising a vibrant mix of colours from the country's national flag and its lush, tropical landscape, the design features patterns and forms inspired by indigenous tapestries, pre-Columbian art and the wealth of homespun handicrafts and textiles that Colombia is famous for. Also represented is the country's breath-taking geography and fauna, from the rugged mountains of the Andes to the luscious green rainforest and the azure Caribbean Sea.