

Top NZ artists performing at the Rehab

By Hayley McNabb

On Wednesday morning the Herald spoke with three well-known performing artists from New Zealand, Che-Fu, Tre and Swiss, at Muri.

They spoke about their background, what they have achieved in the music industry and their inspirations.

Che-Fu was born and bred in central Auckland, New Zealand. His mother is New Zealand Maori and his father is of Nuiean descent. Che-Fu has worked in the music industry for about 25 years producing many albums and songs that have been popular in New Zealand such as "Fade away" and "Chains." He said his stage name was actually a nickname he had as a kid from watching a lot of kung-fu movies. Che-Fu is thankful to his wife who helps him balance their kids while he is producing his music, he is also thankful to his parents who are very supportive of his music. His music is inspired from his general life such as his family life and also from travelling and playing music wherever



he goes. He advises younger people wanting to join the music industry, to just enjoy the music itself first and all the money and glory will come after.

Tre is a 24 year-old Samoan woman who was born in Mangere, New Zealand. She has been studying music since high school and has been in the music industry for 7 years now and loves it endlessly. Tre hasn't released her own album as yet but it's on its way out soon. However she does have a few tracks and jam acoustic videos

coming out soon. She tells us one of her best achievements in her music career is having the opportunity to write songs for other artists in New Zealand and working behind the scenes because she loves creating and writing music.

Swiss is of Tongan descent and was brought up in Wellington, New Zealand. He also lived in Australia for a bit, moving there when he was thirteen. Swiss has been in the music industry for a good seven to eight years and has many tracks and albums out.

The highlights for gigs he says will definitely be Ragga Muffin, One Love concert that is a new gig that started in New Zealand and the Reggae festival that is located in San Francisco. Swiss tells us that he was a bit of a naughty boy in school and his tag name was Swiss so that's how he got his stage name. These three artists will be performing on Friday Night at Rehab along with DJ Bounce spinning their songs on the speakers so head along down to watch their performances.



Red Cross General Assembly

By Poko Utia

This week, the Red Cross held their General Assembly which was a success according to Fine Arnold who said they managed to get representation from all the outer island branches which was very exciting for them. Fine said the General Assembly was delayed from March this year to October because of logistic issues and also because of funding, so they were lucky that Australia Red Cross gave them some money to bring all the representatives from the outer islands for the General Assembly.

"It was very historical for us," Fine said, "because we managed to review our constitution so that we can strength and serve as well. One of the reasons we reviewed the constitution was to take into

account lessons learnt from the past and also to follow international best practices. So that was a great achievement for us."

Fine added, "We also managed to audit our past accounts, which was an issue for the society for a while. We managed to audit years 2014 and 2015 and then table it during our General Assembly. Our members were very impressed and glad that our accounts are now all audited."

"We also managed to pass a strategy plan for the society for the next three years," said Fine, "and our vision is -A resilient Cook Islands through the power of humanity."

Fine explained, "Our members and our branches welcomed our draft and endorsed it at the end of the session. We also had a

look at our budget for next year, it was very important for us to make sure we tabled a budget for next year so that our branches and our members are aware of what funds we have and how we spend it and what money we need to look for to fill the gaps in our resources."

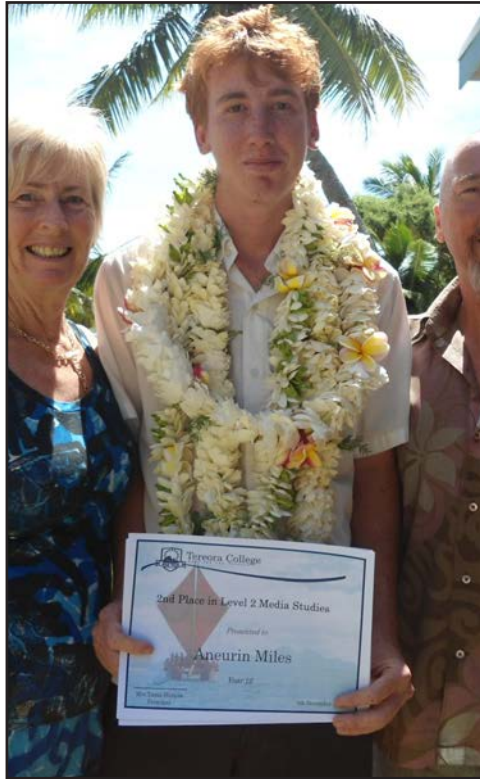
Fine said members also received a snap shot of the budget for this year and the actual spending made. She said it was actually a great improvement this year as Red Cross managed to spend its budget. This was something the members and branches appreciated.

At the end of the session a new governing board will be elected to move the society forward over the next two years.

Tereora College prize winners



Teherenui Koteka - winner Year 12 Media trophy sponsored by CITV.



Aneurin Miles - 2nd place Year 12 Level 2 Media sponsored by CITV



Head Girl Lucianne Vainerere - Third place Level 3 Year 13 Music

Traditional leaders united to challenge new practice note on Occupation Right

by *Noeline Browne*

The new Practice Note on occupation right has widely criticised by landowners all over Rarotonga and certain of the Pa Enuu. The dissatisfaction is so deep that the practice note is being challenged by traditional leaders and major landowners on behalf of their respective Kopu Tangata.

The challenge to the new practice note is being coordinated by the President and Vice President of the Koutu Nui with the full support of the House of Ariki. Discussions began with the Koutu Nui and House of Ariki in July-August after which a series of Vaka meetings on the matter were convened in September. The meetings aroused great passions amongst owners and have been followed up by village 'committee' meetings to discuss suitable approaches.

Informal discussions have been also held with Minister of Justice, Hon Nandi Glassie and Minister of Environment, Hon Kiriau Turepu who have now agreed to meet with a small delegation of traditional and

community leaders to allow them to air their grievances on the new practice note.

In order to prepare for the appointment with the Ministers, Koutu Nui president Terea Mataiapo Paul Allsworth convened a meeting of the committee reps in order to present a united front during their discussions with the two Ministers this Wednesday. Thus, it was that a lunchtime meeting was held on Tuesday to give reps an opportunity to present the strategies their particular Vaka see as important in dealing with the matter. Options offered were wide and varied, but Terea asked that the reps focus on the key messages to be presented to the Ministers on Wednesday.

Vaka Puaikura suggested holding education awareness programmes to 'educate' landowners of the law and court procedures in relation to land. It is about 'communication' amongst the owners and to settle [land] matters at 'family meetings', then take it to court to confirm the family decision. This

was by Doreen Boggs [daughter of Tiikura Mataiapo] and supported by the other Puaikura reps.

Vaka Te Au o Tonga views it as a matter of ensuring that the current laws are properly interpreted by the court including our customs in relation to land. It is about looking at [relevant] sections of the Cook Islands Act 1915 and see if they meet 'today's expectations' of the law. This was by William Framheim [son of Apai Mataiapo], who agreed with an earlier speaker that Article 66A in the Cook Islands Constitution is a provision that traditional leaders can invoke in their challenge to the practice note. Article 66A states that the opinion of the Aronga Mana cannot be challenged in the court [under certain circumstances]. William said that provision had been invoked in the recent Makea Nui tribal title case but noted that the court had asked 'who are the Aronga Mana'.

Koutu Nui president, said that question is well settled, the answer is that the Aronga

Mana are those who have been vested with a tribal title 'under Maori custom' whether they are Ariki, Mataiapo, Rangatira or Kavana. This definition was supported by Rio Rangatira of Ngati Makea.

Vaka Takitumu was represented by Manavaroa Mataiapo Phillip Nicholas said the issue was a 'blessing in disguise' in that it has raised important matters that had not been addressed for a long time. Manavaroa said 'we all share common ground in our grievances' in that 'customary rights' have been set and they are still there. It is presumed he was referring to the legal recognition of ancient custom and usages in relation to land rights (section 422 of the Cook Islands Act), and the authoritative statement in House of Ariki White Paper on Maori Customs (1970) presented to the Legislative Assembly of then Sir Albert Henry, and to Article 66A of the Constitution regarding the opinion of the Aronga Mana,

The delegation will meet with the two Ministers this Wednesday morning.

Government once again under siege



Well, things have been heating up recently and a furore has erupted concerning the publication of the

contents of a draft legal opinion by Dr Alex Frame concerning Cook Islands government spending. An injunction was served against George Pitt publisher of the CI Herald to prevent the publication of the Frame report and George bless his heart decided that it was in the public's best interests that he ignore that injunction, siting freedom of speech. George decided to air the contents and his views on radio which culminated in a visit from the local boys in blue with a warrant for his arrest issued under Crown Law instructions. Needless to say, George refused to cooperate with the authorities and this scenario is being played out in news and social media.

There is a message in this current state of affairs that the country finds itself in and to my mind has contributed to the slow growth of our nation for the past 50 years. More importantly it is beginning to mirror the political instability of the 1990's. As a nation we had high hopes that our move from a tribal feudalism type past to a more modern western democratic political system would unshackle us from despotic Ui Ariki, intervillage bickering, one-upmanship, favouritism and fickle decision making. In part it has worked, however what we are really getting is more of the same but disguised as the modern way of doing things. Let's make a comparison between what we gave up to what we have now:

<u>Past</u>	<u>Present</u>
Ui Ariki	Politician
Chief	GM/CEO
Tama Toa	Policeman
Taunga	Doctor
Rongoa	Medicine
Va'ine Toa	Manager
Vananga	Parliament
Villages	Towns
Warrior arts	Sport
Cooperation	Competition
Barter	Money
Crops	Imports
Agriculture	Processed food
Walking	Vehicles
Vaka	Shipping
Tikanga	Education
Language	Illiteracy
Gods	God
Spiritualism	Religion
Lore	Law
Oratory	Slander
Health	Obesity
Family health	Domestic violence
Anau	Nuclear family
Personal health	Suicide
We/Us	I/Me
Consensus	Democracy

You can see that this is only a small window into what we have exchanged in order to be more modern Polynesians. Some would say

there are good and bad things that we have left behind. This is true, except that the more things change the more they stay the same. Different times, different names but essentially no change has occurred. Our present politicians have become our Ui Ariki from the past and who is to blame for all this, sorry guys, it's us. We only have ourselves to blame for this sad sad state of affairs that we now find ourselves in. Our villages, Oire, Pa Enuua and iti tangata have voted in some of our people who are not fit to be politicians with the country's best interest at heart. We know who these poor performing politicians are, yet we continue to support mediocrity because they are family, because they are village/community focused, because they have influential families, because they are beholding to you. This in my opinion is not a recipe for continuing to grow economic or cultural prosperity for our nation. It shows in the poor decision making of our politicians, the hidden and secret goings on, the currying of favours and the disdain that they show to us, the public when they are caught out. We have a government that manages the country by proxy. Parliament is not convened adequately and often enough to critically debate issues of state. This has the effect of denying the other political parties the ability to challenge and or debate issues such as government spending, political trips overseas, statutes on the books, fishing licenses, Chinese loans, international responsibilities and other matters of importance to the country and especially the public at large. The result is that in the last 50 years dirty government laundry being aired in the public domain through news media and social networks. The politicians have gone on the defence every time there is public criticism regarding their affairs. This in turn has generated more criticism and opprobrium aimed at the politician who in turn has attacked his detractors personally rather than debating the issues properly.

I don't know who is providing the politicians with spin doctoring but I can tell you it's not working and it will continue in this manner as long as the spin doctoring is about defending the politician's and/or government's position. The public are not stupid and they will continue to discuss, debate and write into the news and social media sites slamming government actions, politician's dirty laundry and any other thing that they want to vent against the government. The public do not want to hear excuses and the government misses the point entirely every time it comes under attack. The government, its public servants and its officials are ill-equipped and trained to respond to criticism in the media in a manner that gives the public any confidence in their decision making. Look at the Tiare Taporo schoonegate debacle, the Manihiki pay out, the Toa debacle and the list goes on and on over the last 50 years and still we and

the politicians do not seem to learn from all these foobars.

This latest situation with the Frame draft legal report is a case in point. Instead of getting Crown Law to issue an injunction, the government would have been well advised to respond in a more positive manner. They have gone and used a sledge hammer to crack a nutshell and by doing so have just reinforced what everyone thinks of these politicians and the government of this country. They have also given George more ammunition to fire at them through the CI Herald and for members of the public to comment in letters to the editor in the CI News. Pending the draft outcome of the Frame report, the government should have had a strategy in place to respond to the draft long before they received it. They should have had in place two responses, one for a negative legal response and one for a positive legal response. Instead they have been caught out by an apparent negative legal response from Frame being introduced into the public arena. Who is advising the government? It seems that the standard political response to public criticism is to go on the defence, batten down the hatches and prepare for a siege mentality; unfortunately this is not buying any public sympathy. Politically you need to be in the driving seat so that you drive the response and are not driven to react as happens time after time. Political and public service responses to criticism are not consistent and the public know this. The result is that we get to hear two slants on a story from the politician and the official.

If as has been pointed out that the government has overstepped its authority and spent money for a number of events of such importance to the country, then they should be given a kick up the nono. Not for the fact that they spent the money but for the fact that they took it upon themselves to endorse the appropriation of this money without recourse to a minuted parliamentary debate with members of the opposition. By not doing so, the government has put itself out on a limb and when the limb is shaky and bending under the weight of criticism it is a long way back and a short sharp painful fall to the ground. The debate about the appropriation of this money may well have generated a number of other options to be followed up. Once again the political strategists have been found wanting as this debate (*when a financial shortfall was already on the cards*) should have been had when the CIP came into power 5 years ago. Instead we have got an apparent mean and spiteful government trying to cover up its inadequacies and its poor strategies. By not 'fessing up and by over-reacting once again, a cool head and a strategy to turn a negative into a positive response was the more appropriate action. The government has again shown us poor leadership and poor critical decision making.

It's Our Time Appreciation

By *Lucianne Vainerere*

As I walk out the gates as a senior leaver of Tereora College I look back on the years that made my journey there memorable. Being the student of many great teachers and a peer to many great friends I cherish the memories that now flood my past. I absorbed the teachings from MOST classes and learnt from every experience that high school offered.

As a senior I accepted a major role in the school to become Head Girl. It wasn't an easy task to fulfill. At times I would strive for perfection and tried to please everyone when I knew that perfection was impossible for me to obtain. Pleasing everyone was also impossible so there were times where you needed to be half content with what you did and when considering other peoples opinions. However my journey there was full of laughter, struggle, squad goals, cramming, extensions, proposals, discipline and fun.

As we come to the end of yet another chapter the excitement only builds to start the next. We've obviously been waiting for this day to come for the last 5 years. And although we know we'll miss it when we go, and the sadness creeps in, we breath the exhilaration of starting something different and new where you're mostly in control and you can't blame anyone for anything that comes ahead. It starts with you at the bow.

As we step "one foot on the exit mat" I'd like to wish everyone all the best for the future. May you all dream big and fulfill them, thrive in happiness and reciprocate it, and like Mereina said go forth and multiply in knowledge and wisdom – save the population for later.

A big meitaki maata my fellow student leaders for being who you are and for accepting me with the many weird qualities that I possess, to all our teachers who've put up with us for the last few years, so much aroa to you all and not forgetting our parents who have been there since the beginning mad love to all of you. Without all of your support we wouldn't be who we are, we wouldn't know what we know and we wouldn't understand why we do the things we do. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

So here's to us, the ones who made it all the way, the ones who never gave up, the ones who almost gave up, the ones who got distracted, the ones who are and have become leaders, the ones with dreams, the ones who will make a difference, the ones who will come back, the ones who are humble and wise and kind, the ones who are healthy, the ones who are open minded and to us who are family.

In the words of Melody "It's our time, we're letting go, holding on, flying falling, it's our time, no turning back, no safety net, this is our bitter sweet, bitter sweet moment.

By *Teherenui Koteka*

I was born on Rarotonga and for the majority of my life I have lived here, but you know what's strange? I have lived here for a very, very, long time and I have never really done any of those activities tourists do when they come on vacation. Strange right? But then again I think that it is pretty common for locals not to do those things, after all we already know everything a tour guide could tell us. However because we know everything there possibly is to know about Rarotonga, I think we sometimes forget to appreciate the sheer beauty of our little paradise.

A couple of days ago I had the luxury of going on a lagoon cruise out in Muri Beach. Although our beautiful Muri lagoon may not be as beautiful as I remember it to be, it sure was magical to be able to see it from a new view. The crew aboard Koka Lagoon cruises were fun, friendly and extremely entertaining. It was great to see the positive reactions and grand interest all the visitors aboard the vessel showed towards the local knowledge the awesome crew shared.

I truly appreciated hearing about Muri Lagoon and the terrific strides that are being made in attempt to repopulate our waters with fish. I myself find fish quite scary at times but the size of the fish surrounding the calm cages out at fruits of Rarotonga are too impressive. I met a Moray Eel I

think his name was Robert and he was an absolute stunner, the biggest eel I have ever laid my eyes on.

The journey back to motu Taakoka was a bubbly one filled with laughter and those awesome Maori songs that you hardly hear anymore. Upon arrival at the Motu we were treated to a terrific lunch courtesy of the Koka Captains. Afterwards the Cook Island coconut man showed us how to climb a coconut tree, and I must say no matter how many times I see it being done, it never gets old. We were educated about the life cycle of a coconut and got to see an exhibition of the uses of a nu, akari and uto.

The day was concluded with a fun little crab race, which I sadly lost. Even though I knew everything there was to know about a coconut and although I had already seen a moray eel and eaten freshly caught tuna, it was utterly magnificent to attend this cruise. I would highly recommend everyone to at least do it once. It is an awesome opportunity to re-visit some great Cook Island fun and a fantastic way to re-educate yourself on some true Cook Island facts. Not to mention you get to see the champion coconut tree climber, climb a coconut tree. And an extra bonus the food was delicious. If you ever need to bond with some friends or even yourself this is a great way to do so. My friends and I sure thought so.

Cook Islands
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