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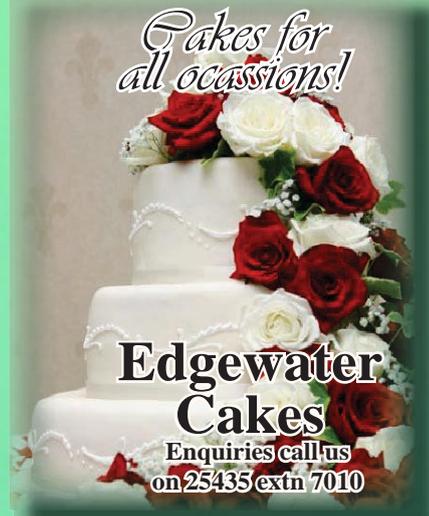


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CI Police Media Release

Last week there was much media publicity about the actions of police officers in relation to a matter reported against Mr George Pitt. We have conducted further inquiries on this matter and I am satisfied that no evidence was uncovered that would substantiate the laying of a criminal charge against Mr Pitt or anyone else. This matter is therefore cleared and no further police action will be taken against Mr Pitt or anyone else.

Commissioner's comment

I sincerely apologize to Mr George Pitt and his family for the distress, hurt and inconvenience caused to him and his family.

Telecom sale process was corrupt says complaint

Accumulation of yellow cards likely to end with a red card for Brown

Oh ... and the fee?" was this text request from Richard Neves to local businessman William Framhein an attempt to solicit a bribe? With perception being the political currency it's little wonder there is a growing assertion that Richard Neves and this Cook Islands Party government are corrupt and self serving and this is another "smoking gun".

As we all know, for almost ten years, Framhein has been thwarted by successive Governments in his attempts to bring competitive telecoms services to the Cook Islands.

However, things have certainly heated up in this regard following the global teleco Digicel's offer to purchase Telecom NZ's shares in Telecom Cook Island(TCI) back in December 2013. A complaint submitted last month to the Trade Commission Office by Framhein provides details of the frustrations of one company's efforts to deal with this corrupt Government.

It paints a grim picture of this Government's complicity in ensuring that BlueSky, a foreign company, was allowed to buy TNZ's stake in TCI. It also depicts a Government apparently committed to maintaining BlueSky's monopoly position.

The bid process for buying TNZ's shares in TCI was supposed to be only open to local entities and specifically stated that any bidder's "ownership and control is not in the way of a nominee, agency or other device for a foreign enterprise". For many who followed the process there is the perception that Brian Baudinet's Teleraro interest was always intended as a "device" for BlueSky to obtain ownership and control of TCI.

Framhein's complaint reveals that his bid through Orama



Years of blocking by Brown results in Framhein (above) complaint

Limited actually offered \$2m more than BlueSky for the shares. This begs the question: why would Officers of TNZ, a public listed company in New Zealand, not exercise their fiduciary duty to achieve the maximum value for their shareholders? It is also strange that the Government would back a bid that effectively reduces the value of its own shareholding.

I should state at this stage that I have a personal interest in getting to the bottom of this affair. As readers may remember, in March 2014 Minister of Finance Mark Brown sacked me from the Chairman role at Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) in large part because of my insistence that local entities be given a chance to purchase the TCI shares.

In defence of his inexcusable \$200,000 interest free business loan to his best friend Mike Henry, Brown moralised the Schoonergate scandal by stating he was committed to helping local businesses get off the ground. It is obvious Framhein's efforts to establish a telecommunications alternative is the wrong kind of business. Never the less it exposes the CIP government is here to help their own. It's little wonder Brown is facing another yellow card sin binning.

Framhein's complaint lays out in detail how the Government not only failed to support a Cook Islands company, but took the decision not to enforce the Constitutional rights designed to give locals a fighting opportunity.

In it, he explains that, the new

CEO of BTIB recently confirmed by email that TNZ was obliged to offer the shares for sale to local entities prior to selling to a foreign entity under Section 24 of the Development Investment Act. However, in December 2014, when Orama challenged the Government as to how it could possibly approve the BlueSky sale, Crown Law stated that "the Approval was not given pursuant to section 24 of the Development Investment Act 1995-96 (Act)" and that they "decline to provide further details".

As I have stated before, it appears that the incompetent Crown Law office have no clue about the Constitution and just work to the agenda of their political masters.

Apparently the former CEO for the Minister for BTIB's was more flamboyant in his response to Framhein: "we (Minister Turepu Office) are not involved (never was!) In any way with the sale of TCNZ shares in TCI". He signed the letter (delivered on official letter head) "So go do the proverbial sexual act to yourself". In defence of Minister Turepu he did remove his CEO when the letter was brought to his attention.

Recognising that any attempt to get the Government to properly police the deal would be futile, Framhein claims to have changed tack. He revisited an argument he had tried earlier - that the Minister for Telecoms has the discretion to issue a Radiocommunications Apparatus License to Orama Ltd under the existing legislation.

Framhein claims that Neves countered, restating the Government's earlier position that whilst the Telecoms Act does appear to allow this, the spirit of the law is to protect

continued next page

a statutory monopoly. Having had the opportunity to review all the relevant documentation whilst conducting due diligence on TCI, Orama was able to prove TCI lost its monopoly rights back in 2006. Neves and Crown Law then agreed that it was indeed possible for the Minister to grant a license to Orama and suggested that they submit a formal Application.

Incidentally, it is worth noting that the reason TCI still have a monopoly is that TNZ blackmailed the Government with a clause in their Joint Venture Agreement that would have forced the Government to buy them out at a ridiculous cost if the Government introduced new laws that negatively affected their profitability within six months of the law being enacted.

It appears that the habit of doing the bidding of TCI's masters is hard to shake. Brown has yet to demand that BlueSky stop broadcasting their TV services in the island without a license, despite knowing of this breach for well over a month. It is worth pointing out that it is his duty to do so and that if he is not prepared to properly administer his portfolio he must resign. I will add this to the growing list of reasons that Brown must resign his position if the Prime Minister does not remove him first as per Article 14. (7)a plus (8) of the Cook Islands Constitution.

Orama then explain that they prepared a detailed application and presented it to Richard Neves and Mark Brown on 16th March 2015. I have seen a copy and as a former chairman of TCI I am impressed with Orama's plans to grow the economy as a whole, for example proposing advanced solutions to drive the tourism industry and planning to set up venture hubs to assist young entrepreneurs. In my opinion their focus on inclusion of the overseas Cook Islands communities could be financially and culturally very beneficial to the islands.

Yet the Government remained unmoved. Despite an (unacknowledged) letter of support from Opposition Minister James Beer, Brown sat on the application for almost six months. Finally Brown agreed to meet with Framhein on 9th September 2015.

Framhein says that just one hour before the scheduled

meeting Brown rejected Orama's application. In his letter of rejection Brown states: "I do not believe that your application provides sufficient detail of the radio apparatus you wish to licence for me to consider the application. For this reason I must decline to consider the

Framhein says that just one hour before the scheduled meeting Brown rejected Orama's application.

application any further. If you wish to provide further details of the apparatus you require a licence for I would be happy to consider your new application."

The meeting went ahead anyway. Framhein claims that when pressed to explain what information was missing, Crown Law said that they did not know. Neves then stepped in and claimed that the Crown Law representative was obviously no telecoms expert, but that Crown Law had consulted experts. Neves then committed to providing Orama with a list of the missing information with two weeks.

In response to a subsequent Official Information Act request, Crown Law stated that there had been no peer review of the Application. Framhein claims he has yet to receive the list Neves promised.

It is embarrassing that Dr Andrea Iffland, Regional Director of ADB felt the need to take the unprecedented step in her speech to the dignitaries gathered at the Forum Minister's of Finance Meeting of calling upon Brown directly to grant the Orama license.

ADB is the organisation that Brown goes to, cap in hand, to seek financial support to deregulate the telecoms market. How can he go back to ADB and ask for funds to help introduce competition if he refuses to heed their calls for him to act? If Brown does not award Orama its license, then I think we as Cook Islanders can expect to see no end to the BlueSky monopoly.

So why would Mark Brown

reject a license that has the full support of ADB, will greatly increase the Governments revenues (at a time when our PM is touring the region with a begging bowl) is committed to helping local entrepreneurs stay local and has plans to grow our tourism segment?

setting up today's meeting with the Minister." Neves responds, "No dramas." An hour and 12 minutes later Neves sent the following text "Oh...and the fee?"

Framhein ignored this text and the application was in turn ignored for nearly six months before being summarily rejected on spurious grounds.

I asked Framhein whether he will be submitting a new application. "Mark Brown has demonstrated repeatedly that for whatever reason he does not want me to provide telecoms services for Cook Islanders. I have no reason to believe that he will treat a new license with anything more than the contempt he has shown our previous application and our earlier bid for TCI." Framhein concluded that: "I have requested the Minister to rescind his rejection of our application and to grant Orama Ltd a license before 20th November 2015. If this does not happen, then Orama shall file an application for a judicial review."

- George Pitt



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Government's tampering with Constitutional rights and freedom of speech malicious

How many more victims, knowing their Constitutional Rights are treated 'unjustly'? Mr George Pitt is 'gagged' through a High Court Injunction to deny his rights of "freedom of speech" under article 64 of our Constitution, because he wants to publish a draft report on the interpretation of Article 70 by Dr Alex Frame (Cook Islands News 7/11/15). Does this apply to all forms of media, like talk back radio, TV interviews, Letters to the Editor and the internet when it comes to interpretations of our Constitution? To exercise your Constitutional Rights is deemed criminal? In New Zealand and other countries 'whistle blowers' are protected by law!

I'm sure Dr Frame would agree, there is no such thing in law as being correct. The law and its application must be seen as being 'fair and just' in today's society. When 'interpreting' law, the 'judiciary' use 'ratio decidendi'. This is reasoning or rationale used with relevant facts to arrive at a 'fair and just' decision. The fundamental pillar being that we are all treated equally in the eyes of the law, commonly referred to as rule of law, regardless of anyone's status in society. The Article 70 interpretation, appropriation of 1.5% of the total budget. How hard is it for anyone to work that out?

Legal research must be specific. In this case "Constitutional Rights or Freedoms". This is an extract from a Law Book titled "Laying down the Law." On page 20 of the book, by Cook, Creyke, Geddes & Hamer, under subheading 'Magna Carta and the first parliaments' reference 2.12, from the Sixth Edition 2005, by Butterworths it states that;

"The first real step in creation of our modern constitutional structure came in 1215. When King John was forced to sign Magna Carta (the 'Great Charter'). John was a very unpopular king. Among other things, he was responsible for the loss of Normandy. After he imposed a heavy taxation burden to pay for the disastrous military

campaign, a group of nobles, known as 'the Barons', rose up and demanded that John provide a guarantee of certain freedoms. The list of demands were quite extensive.....The first assembly called a 'parliament' was summoned in 1265 by Simon de Montfort, an important noble of the day, after he led a rebellion"

Is this CIP government, correction 'Executive Council' by which members have sworn an oath as stated in Article 15 "for the good management of affairs of the Cook Islands" one would assume that they act "according to law and that I will justly and faithfully carry out my duties as a member of Parliament of the Cook Islands" as stated in Article 30, under the Head of State of her Majesty the Queen. Are these members collectively discarding 800 years of Magna Carta and Constitutional Rights? Is this 'regime' thumbing its nose to 750 years of evolution of parliament and what it represents? What premise is our nation governed by? What about those in the regime who think they can 'dictate' and not comply with the rule of law?

Do we see History repeating itself? Our 'PM' very unpopular due to United Nations Allegiance, Manihiki kick-backs and excessive travel? The loss of Normandy compares to our 'Marae Moana'? The loss and rejection of our skilled workers to overpriced, overrated, failure riddled Consultants known as Travel In Travel Out Individuals (T.I.T.O.I's)? Mr Brown and the heavy taxation due to increasing With-holding, VAT, Back Tax. Income TAX over pensioners? The MFEM 'Hench Men' under the brand of 'Nenevanomics' clamping down on the necks of Grey Power members and our small businesses? Do you remember the PMs favourite line to a T.I.T.O.I, "he has the law"? Now in the pipeline Future Water Charges and debt poured into excessive costing project failures (TMV and Septic Sanitation).

Are 'the Barons', our Grey

Power Mamas and Papas. The 'Te Mate Vai' Landowners and Petitioners, Aitutaki referendum stalwarts, Nikao and Avatea School Committees inclusive of past and present students. Marae Moana advocates including the 'Aronga Mana' and the Ban Purse Seining Petitioners? That's a lot of people! When locals raise their concerns which is their Constitutional Right its all DONE DEALS! Why waste locals time and energy to request submissions and attend pointless stakeholder meetings?

The extract quoted earlier is written history applicable to all Commonwealth Nations. The evolution of our Constitution and Magna Carta is the premise of Human Rights and Freedom of Speech. Freedom to a fair trial and hearing in compliance with our Constitution. Magna Carta protects subjects (the people) from abuse of dictatorial Royal Prerogative (special powers or privileges) in the matter of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. That is being questioned in the George Pitt issue and needs to be answered! A High Court Injunction and Police intimidation? Seeing how the Grey Power have been bullied, threatened and discriminated in the past it just seems second nature to do the same to one individual. What ever happened to true Christian Principles from our Constitution?

Speaking of Grey Power, where is the back tax law? Why are Australian or other pensioners not under the same scrutiny? Grey Power are denied their rights, in Article 68 of the Constitution states that "No taxation shall be imposed except by law". Remember the increase in VAT from 12.5% to 15%. This was passed in Parliament on the 31st March 2014. VAT already existed yet it was still passed into law that the figure used be 15%. What about the same 'due process' of enforcement for any taxes over Grey Power in Parliament? One still wonders why reimbursement of back taxing and raided bank accounts

took place?

One would think that if the budget was guillotined then what figure would they actually use? If the Minister of Finance and his Financial Secretary can use their 'Executive Buddies'. The now apparent 'Buddies' like the Queens Representative, Speaker of the House, Ombudsman, PERCA, Audit, Solicitor General, Crown Law and so on that are all 'cherry picked' to apparently sweep all these issues raised under the carpet.

If there are grounds to independently review the issue of over spending which may well be the reason for 'gagging' George Pitt and denying our Constitutional Rights of Freedom of Speech to print the 'Frame' interpretation. One would think officials from New Zealand or other Commonwealth countries that have been used in the past, distil all information and present a report to a parliament "select committee" for debate. Is this what the regime are trying to avoid? Is this why 1.5% needs to be justified and if there is a breach of the Constitution an unlawful act is exposed? In the future how many more victims, knowing their Constitutional Rights and Freedom of Speech are going to be treated 'unjustly'? Then what?

Politicians are servants to the Nation and the people of the Cook Islands. A small number are trying to do their part. The majority appear intellectually incapable. Are they happy being on the dole (paid to do nothing) collecting tax free 'hush money'? Many voters now raise the question why have Parliament? There are many good people having their reputations tarnished by 'stupid decision-makers'! In Article 39 Laws are made "for the peace, order, and good government of the Cook Islands". Go Figure? 'The Barons' will not be bullied and will stand up for our Constitutional Rights now and into the future so help us GOD!

*James Thomson, Matavera.
Voter for Constitutional Rights
and Freedom of Speech.*

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Tourism survey to gain better understanding of benefits

By Hayley McNabb.

An interview with Metua Vaiimene from Cook Islands Tourism tells us they are currently calling upon the support of the Cook Islands business community to support the Cook Islands Tourism latest endeavors in their statistics and research program.

They have already launched the Cook Islands business survey this week and will continue to conduct this survey twice in the next twelve months. This survey will help Cook Islands Tourism gain a better understanding of the disbursement and distribution of the economic benefits from tourism and is a very important part of their research program it will help them to define the areas that government will need to support in the tourism industry and will identify areas that are up for improvement in the way that businesses are operating here in the Cook Islands. It will also give tourism a better understanding of the overall business environment

that they are operating here in the tourism industry.

Vaiimene explains that the survey will work as follows, you will receive an email with a link to the online survey and the survey will be completed electronically and will then be submitted to the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute. On top of that the Auckland University of Technology will be conducting the analysis and coordinate the survey for Cook Islands Tourism.

This is a similar method to their international visitors survey, all the information that they gather will be kept confidential and private with the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute. In the business survey there will be questions such as general turnover, number of staff, whether staff are local or expats things like that. There will also be questions asking for the size of your business, location, whether you are running multiple operations within your business. It is an in-depth survey of the business environment and the information collected is not only

valuable to the Cook Islands Tourism but other government agencies and of course the private sector.

There is an incentive however for all of the business owners and business operators out there to complete this survey and Cook Islands Tourism is happy to advise that everyone who completes both the surveys in the next twelve months, one every six months will go into the draw to win a travel credit worth \$800 from Air New Zealand and Cook Islands Tourism. They hope that this will be a reward to all of the business owners and the business community here in the Cook Islands for sharing their information and helping Cook Islands Tourism to complete their survey and reports.

Cook Islands Tourism is also launching two other surveys this week, the first one will be held every two months and that is the Accommodation Monitor. The Accommodation Monitor will give Cook Islands Tourism and idea of accommodators

occupancy levels and their forward bookings for the next 12 months. Vaiimene states that this is very crucial information for Cook Islands Tourism to use when they are negotiating with our airline partners, when they are planning for airline capacity and also marketing campaigns throughout the year.

Along with the Accommodation Monitor there will also be a one-off survey in the next couple of weeks to ascertain room stock. Cook Islands Tourism want to get an idea of the number of rooms that are available here in Rarotonga and will eventually extend it out to the outer islands. They will also gather more information on the location of the rooms and the size of them.

Cook Islands Tourism would like to thank to the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute and the Auckland University of Technology guaranteeing them with confidentiality and providing them with the frameworks to conduct their business surveys.

Pensioners do contribute to the economy

“Pensioners bring some \$6 million in NZ pension money into the Cook Islands. That is more than what the country earns from exports of black pearls. This money goes straight into the banks and the country benefits economically because the banks can then lend this money out to other Cook Islanders so they can build homes or start up businesses.”

Dear Editor,
In response to “Should Grey Power pay tax on NZ Pension” letter in the Herald last week, I shall be brief and reply that if only the NZ pensioners were taxed by Sir Geoffrey Henry’s CIP government during its inception in July 1996, there would be no Grey Power, Dennis Tunui would be a non-entity and this letter would not be written because all pensioners would continue to pay tax. Simple as that. But somehow we will never know why this great leader Sir Geoffrey never applied tax on NZ pensioners during his time or why, under mounting financial pressure, never dipped into available pensioner funds when his government went bankrupt in 1997.

By contrast, under no

pressure whatsoever, and at his own whim, Andrew Haigh, Revenue Management Division head, authorized the bank raid of \$30,000 from unsuspecting 70-80 year old NZ pensioners on 17 December 2013, one week before Christmas. There were no repercussions to what he did.

In an expanse of 19 years and six Prime Ministers after Sir Geoffrey, all these great Cook Islanders never complained about NZ pensioners for not contributing to the economic welfare of the nation. Today, after only one year of running (the law to tax NZ pensioners was passed by parliament in October 2014, but was backdated to the year 2013!).

Other writers have explained that previous governments did not ask the NZ pensioners

to pay tax because it was an incentive for Cook Islanders to return home and bring their pensions with them. As it is, these pensioners bring some \$6 million in NZ pension money into the Cook Islands. That is more than what the country earns from exports of black pearls. This money goes straight into the banks and the country benefits economically because the banks can then lend this money out to other Cook Islanders so they can build homes or start up businesses. The pensioners do not hide this \$6 million under their mattresses. Get real Te Tuhi. We are contributing but in a different way.

Te Tuhi Kelly’s full page drool about “user pay,” and “pensioner tax, cradle to the grave” scenario how our “wants” can only be “met” through

paying tax are all irrelevant-like the resuscitated tax law, they were redundant. Grey Power members were prepared to pay tax, but not the back tax sting attached to it. We won our fight and parliament threw out Richard Neves’ back tax bomb and directed government to reimburse \$400,000 of paid back tax from about 100 members. An estimated \$10,000 in interest is unaccounted for.

Te Tuhi Kelly was unkind towards us who have retired back in the Cook Islands and living in our own homes where we preferred to be left alone. The Revenue Management Division has been hounding us for their pound of flesh but this man (Kelly) is after us just to make us look guilty. Shame on you.

Dennis Tunui
President – Grey Power.



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A weekend to remember

By Norman Goerge

Sometimes it is glorious to be away and isolated-protected by the Pacific Ocean. Events this last weekend around the world is a mixture of horror and glory.

Glory must go to an overwhelming electoral victory of Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy Party (NLD) which won about 80% of seats in the Myanmar (Burmese) Parliament. My friend Dr. Aung, now a Cook Islander, I am sure will be delighted!

The only setback for this brave lady is she cannot be President. The military junta drafted Constitution has banned her from eligibility. The junta has also reserved the right for the military commander in chief to make 3 critical and powerful appointments, the heads of the ministries of the interior, defence and boarder security.

With the world watching, we all hope for a peaceful transition of power from the military to civilians under the leadership of Suu Kyi.

The horror story of course is all blood-bath in Paris this weekend on Friday 13th!

Isis is at their murderous blood-bath again! Altogether they murdered 129 people and injured about 350, some critically in Paris at 6 different venues, the number of deaths is likely to increase.

This organisation of radical Muslims have no clear philosophy, religion or objective. Their mixed messages keep changing. Their one common characteristic is their hatred, extremism, cruelty and blood spilling terrorism against the US, Russia, fellow Arabs, and the West. Already Isis is getting their bases bombed in Iraq and Syria. At last there is a growing alliance building up between western powers and Russia to wipe this curse from the face of the Earth.

It will not be quick and painless. It is good to see the world rally to put a stop to all this violence.

They are behind the asylum

seeking invasion of Europe, by escaping civilians from mainly Iraq and Syria. But look now, Isis personnel have used asylum seekers to sneak into Europe to carry out the attacks in Paris.

Our thoughts and support must go to the people of France and relatives of the unfortunate dead victims.

A BETTER WEEKEND TO REMEMBER ON THE HOMEFRONT

My weekend was rewarded with two pleasant events. The first was the unveiling of Papa Tupui Ariki Henry's headstone in Ngatangia. The black shiny onyx marble with the inscription "THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" was impressive, reflected the man's brilliant spirit.

Papa Pui died on the 16th of November 2014. He was a truly gifted and talented man. With a background as a qualified New Zealand School teacher, he returned to the Cook Islands in 1965 to help his father Albert Royale Henry manage the affairs of the newly elected CIP Government.

Innovative, with people first and foremost in their minds, father and son set out to shape the infant nation of the Cook Islands. Breaking away from the mindset of New Zealand bureaucracy was not easy. I recall Pui telling me, whenever his dad explained and wanted certain things done, the senior NZ Public Servants around him would tell him, "You need the approval of the Government." Then, when Papa Arapati asked them, "Who is the Government?"

That's when reality set in. Breaking the chain of approvals, referrals with Wellington was not easy; it took over a decade to do it.

Albert and Tupui set out to establish the Department of Social Services or Social Development. They introduced a housing scheme to improve the standard of living.

In 1972 they crowned it all with having New Zealand build the Rarotonga International Airport. They also established

the Old Age Pension Scheme for pensioners. Add to that the Rarotongan Hotel for tourism.

These two, father and son, being the first on the scene, created the structure and foundation for the future of this country. Not a perfect creation perhaps, a study of nation building around the history of the world proves just that. It is never a perfect beginning, but a light at the feet of this nation, to guide the way forward.

Whatever mistakes happened much later, the good work accomplished by Papa Arapati Henry and Papa Tupui Ariki Henry in the first 13 Years of self-government has set a firm unshakeable foundation guiding us to nationhood that no one can deny.

If I have to rate who the top 4 individuals are, that laid the original foundation for self government for this nation, it will have to be Papa Arapati Henry, Papa Tom Davis, Dick Charles Brown and Tupui Ariki Henry at number 4.

In my opinion, everyone else can fall behind these top 4.

A brief message to the CIP..."Why have you forsaken Papa Arapati and Tupui Henry?" They were your founders, yet you discard them like recycled plastic!

A message to the nation..."Why do we not have a remembrance day?"

"Ra Akamaraa Anga" or "Founders Day."

It is not for fighting wars and killing others, but simply for coming together to find and establish a nation called the Cook Islands- The rainbow paradise of the South Pacific. Maybe this was missed by the planners of the 50th Anniversary. A Remembrance day will draw attention to Papa Ngamaru Ariki and Makea Takau Ariki who formed the original 4 Cook Islands, raised a hand-made Union Jack to ward off a French Frigate and subsequently leading us to Queen Victoria.

From there we need to devote time to remember a huge collection of our founders, Orometuas, Arikis,

politicians, composers, artists, musicians, doctors, nurses, teachers, public servants, intellectuals, business tycoons, sports people, scholars, historians etc.

How about devoting one day for them? Even if it is too late for the calendar of events for this year, there is always next year. It will never be too late to set aside a "Remembrance Day" for the whole nation and for each individual island.

The second event of why memorable weekend was to join the family of Maria Nicholas Henry, celebrate her 80th birthday. It was a true modern day event of firstly an unveiling, followed by a birthday celebration afterwards with a modest crowd of about 50, an island band by crooner Papa Ru, with old time musical favourites, it set an evening twilight of serene softness, cool air and nostalgia.

The birthday girl looking fresh, permanently smiling surrounded by her beautiful grandchildren, was an impressive sight of how to look cool and elegant at age 80.

She is a title holder. Tauriki Rangatira, she had led a very active busy life of running businesses with her first husband Harry Napa and continued her busy life with second husband Tupui Ariki Henry. Many tributes were presented by 91 year old Papa Dan Kamana, Tupe Short and many others.

Mama Maria was praised for her many achievements and attributes including the beauty and good looks department where her granddaughter held the Miss Cook Islands Title.

Many of us will always remember Maria for her ready smiles, kindness and even though she had the social standing to be withdrawn and aloof, she was always willing and ready to be nice and cordial to all.

Perhaps the secret to being serene, relaxed and beautiful at 80. So ladies and gentlemen, avoid being sour and grumpy so you can make it to 80, like beautiful Maria!!

Ka Kite!

Congratulations to Patikura Jim

By Courtney Matai

Congratulations to Mrs Patikura Jim who is Woman of the Month for November. She has served the people of Atiu and the Cook Islands especially women and young girls in the arts of Tivaevae Making, weaving, Tailoring- sewing, traditional Ava Costume making, embroidery and stitching technique, tie dying and block printing.

Her talent, skills and experience gained since age 14 years old had enabled her today to be one of the best and well known Taunga of Vainetini work on Enuamanu.

Personal Information

Patikura or 'Aunty Pati' is the name she is well known for. On Atiu, she is called by her Tupuna - Ancestry name as 'Mama Niva'. She was born on the 12th June 1948 and was raised on the island of Atiu in the village of Areora. Her parents are Teiritapuatua Ona Ariki (father) who is from Atiu and Hiomai Fariu Arapari (Mother) who is Rarotongan and Tahitian. Patikura comes from a family of 7 children which consists of 3 girls and 4 boys. Her feeding parents however are the late Ona-ariki Mana and Teriiruia Matunga from Atiu.

Marriage:

Patikura was married to the late Tangi Jim on the 27th April 1972 on Atiu and they both had 7 children during their marriage, 3 feeding children, from which they have 34 grand children and 8 great grand children.

Favourite Hobbies and interests:

Some of the many things that Patikura loves to do are spending quality time with her children and grand children.

As well as participate in any Vainetini Program and being creative by exploring new ideas to any of her art and crafts work. Patikura also loves to teach her daughters her skills and learning more about her culture and heritage.

Education:

Patikura attended Atiu Primary and travelled to Rarotonga to attend a Nursing Aid Training School at 15 years old in 1963. While on Rarotonga she attended Tereora College and left the college at 4th form.

Employment:

She gained her first employment with Harry Napa as a kitchen hand in the former Empire Movie Theatre Coffee Café where she worked for 2 years then returned to Atiu to care for her grandparents. Patikura's general employment history involved her passion in various Arts and crafts activities on the island of Atiu and all over the Cook Islands. Again, she was employed by the Ministry of Internal affairs on Atiu in the Women's Division for over 10 years during the Government Transition Reform in 1996-1997. Patikura was re-employed again in 2000 by the Atiu Island Administration Office, till she retired at the age of 61 in 2011.

Beliefs /Spirituality:

Patikura has a strong Christian belief as she is a church member of the Atiu Christian Church.

Community/Church/Uniform/Cultural/NGO/Sport organization involvement:

Patikura has participated in many community events in Atiu such as being a former Girls Brigade Member, a retired assistant deacon for the Atiu Cook Island Christian Church,



Woman of the Month Teokotai Rahui Jim

a former netball player for the Areora village club, a Taunga Rakei (Traditional Ava Costume Designer) for any Cultural activities such as investiture, a voluntary teacher aid at Atiu college and a village based program of Tivaevae making.

Memorable experiences you want to share:

A memorable experience would be officially becoming the youngest member of the Areora Vainetini Group on Atiu in 1965 at age 17 years old, formed by Mama Tekura Tatuava as well as winning the top prize for the best masterpiece.

Goals:

To ensure all her children have learnt/captured her skills, expertise and talents in her arts and crafts work especially her daughters and grand- daughters.

Groups/organizations you belong to

Patikura is a former member

of the Areora Vainetini of Atiu. Although she is retired, she still continues with her vainetini activities from home. Today in Atiu, Patikura is one of the most visited person by tourists and locals for her vast experience in Tivaivai making and etc.....

What is important to you?

- My trust in the Lord and the quality time with my children, grand children and great grand's are very important to me.

- My culture and my heritage

As quoted by Mrs. Tekura Tatuava a former Member and Patroness of the Areora Vainetini –Women's Group on Atiu from 1965 - 2000

"Today, Patikura is the best of the best on the island of Atiu, one of a kind, talented, skilled, clever and creative woman gifted with knowledge in all Vainetini arts and crafts activities."

Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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

Cook Islands Herald Issue 793

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 11th Nov 2015

Audit investigation at Culture

Russell Thomas, Public Services Commissioner, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 11th November 2015.

Thomas was interviewed in relation to an Audit investigation into a mismanagement allegation at the Ministry of Cultural Development, the Tauranga Vananga.

In Māori Thomas said that he had received information that there have been management issues within the Ministry of Cultural Development. He added the information relate to issues that may be deemed wrongful but as he could not be certain he felt it was appropriate for him to refer the information to the right organisation to investigate.

“Mei teia te tū kua tae mai tetai akakiteanga ki āku no runga i tetai au mea e tupu nei ki roto i te Tipatimani o te Culture. Te tae maianga teia akakiteanga ki aku, te vai nei tetai au tāmānakoanga i tetai au angaanga, pēnei e au angaanga taukore teia e raveia nei, kāre rā oki e rauka i aku i te akapāpū i teia, inārā, i te mea e kua kite au i teia, kua akakiteia mai ki āku, e mea tau rāi i āku i reira kia tuku atu au i te reira ki te aronga na ratou e kimikimi mai i te reira au akaapaanga, te reira au tāmānakoanga, pēnei ē, e au angaanga tāravakē tetai”.

Thomas confirmed that he had referred the allegations to the Audit office and that he had contacted the head of the Tauranga Vānanga to give him advanced notice of the allegations should the Audit come to visit him.

“Kua tuku atu i reira te reira ki roto i te opati o te Audit, kua oake atu au ki a ratou, inārā, i mua ake ka oake ei au ki a ratou i teia, kua tuatua au ki te arataki o te Tauranga Vānanga i te akakite ki a ia ē, kua tae mai tetai reta, mē kore, tetai imēre ki āku no runga i teia au akaapaanga, inangaro au kia kite a ia nā mua, me tae atu i reira te tuanga o te Audit, kua kite a ia ē, eaa te akakoroanga”.

Thomas confirmed that he had received the allegations via email and that he had also spoken to the previous Head of Ministry

who denies any wrongful doing as alleged in the information.

“So e imēre teia tei tae mai ki āku no runga i teia au akaapaanga, no reira, kua tuatua au ki te arataki o te Tauranga Vānanga o te reira tuātau, kua kite a ia i te reira, kāre a ia e `āriki ana i te reira, te karanga nei au e, te reka ua ra, inārā, na te tuanga o te Audit e akapāpū mai e, mē e tika, me kāre i tika”.

When asked as to how long it might take Audit to investigate the allegation Thomas said that it really depends on what they might find and subject to their findings, the investigation may take a lit bit longer to complete.

“Ti runga ua i te turanga o te au mea te ka kiteaia mai, no te mea, no atu oki e, kua tae mai teia akaapaanga no teia tuātau moni i topa akenei, ka `ākarakara te Audit ki roto i teia au akaapaanga, mei te mea e, kitea mai e ratou e, e au tuanga ke atu tetai, ko te ngā`i teia pēnei ka roaroa atu te au kimikimianga, pēnei e, ko taau e akakite mai nei no te roa o te au rare a te Audit, te au angaanga ta ratou e rave nei, no runga te reira i te au accounts a te au Ministry. Ko teia, kāre te reira e topa ki roto i te reira turanga, no te mea e special review teia naai”.

Thomas stated that owing to the nature of the information received Audit will certainly examine them thoroughly. He added that he does not think that the investigation would take up to a year to complete.

“No te mea oki e, e au akaapaanga teia ki roto i tetai au mea, ka `ākara matatio ratou

ki te reira tuanga, e reira ratou e kimikimi aere ai. Kare au e manako ana e ka taeria te mataiti, inārā, e au tuātau tetai, tei runga ua e, mei te aa te maata i te au mea ta ratou ka kiteaia mai i roto teia kimikimi mataioanga na ratou”.

Thomas said the complaint came from a Government employee. As it is an allegation, uncertain whether it's true or not, it is why the Audit office has been requested to investigate, to advise whether the allegation are true or not, notwithstanding the Head of Ministry saying they are baseless, he is unsure himself, the only way of course, is to refer it to them (Audit) to investigate, let them determine and advise that the allegation is true or not.

“Ko teia e akaapaanga teia na roto mai i tetai tangata angaanga a te Kavamani. Mei teia te tū, kua tārokakā ēreia, kāre e akapāpūanga me e tika rāi, kāre e tika, no reira te Audit office i tukuia ai, na ratou oki i reira e akapāpū mai e, ko teia au akaapaanga e au akaapaanga taukore, you know, kāre oki e tika, mē kore, ka akapāpū mai ratou e, ko teia au akaapaanga i tae mai, e au akaapaanga tika te reira, no reira, mei taku i akakite, no atu te karanga nei te akaaere o te Tauranga Vānanga e, e au akaapaanga taukore teia, kāre i te tika, kāre oki i pāpū i aku, ko te rāvenga ua i reira, oake ki te aronga na ratou e kimikimi, na ratou i reira e akaoki mai, e karanga mai e, kāre i te tika, me kore, e tika”.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Thomas for coming onto the programme explaining the Audit office investigation into the Ministry of Cultural Development.

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 13th Nov 2015

Protest march for this Saturday 21st

In 'Breaking News' on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 13th November 2015, William Framhein, Matariki FM owner and presenter, said in Māori that he was speaking from a meeting where an important matter was being discussed.

Framhein said he was at the office of Te Ipukarea Society where a committee and some friends were meeting to discuss and organize a protest march on Saturday 21st November.

"Kia orana Tony, kia orana te iti tangata e akarongorongo mai nei i Te Kave Kōrero i roto i teia atiangā. Tony, tei konei au i te kainga o te Ipukarea Society. I roto i teia tuātau te uriuri manako nei te Ipukarea Society e tetai au komiti o te reira putuputuanga e kua tāpiri mai tetai au taeake aere i te uriuri manako no runga i te akatupuanga i tetai māti no teia Maanākai e tū mai nei kia mua, kare `āpōpō, a teia epetoma e tū mai nei ki mua i te rā 21 no Noema".

He stated the march is to enable the people to take action and protest to show their objection to Government selling purse seine fishing licences to the European Union.

Ko te akakoroanga o teia māti, i te `akāri atu i te anoano o te iti tangata i te pātoi, i te pātoi i te manako o te Kavamani i te `ōronga atu i tetai au licence ki te European Union no te tautai kupenga i roto i to tatou Bāsileia.

Framheia said a press release and a programme for the march would be issued to the media on Monday (16th November).

So ko tēnā e Tony te manako e uriurii nei i roto i teia tuātau tikāi, teia atiangā tikāi i konei i te Ipukarea Society. Tērā ua, me oti te uipāanga ka `ōrongaia tetai au nūti no teia ki te tuanga o te media, pērā katoa ki a koe a te Monite, no runga i te porōkarāmu no te māti".

Framhein confirms that the protest march would take place on Saturday 21st November and invites the people to report to the area opposite the Banana Court at 10.30am from which the march will start

from and proceed to the Pūnanga Nui market.

"No runga i teia māti tei tāmanakoia e te Ipukarea Society, kua akapāpūia teia no te rā 21 o Noema e ka inangaroia to tatou iti tangata te ka inangaro i te pātoi i teia tautai kupenga auraka kia tupu i roto i to tatou Bāsileia, kia tāokotai mai tatou i tai tua mai i te Banana Court, mei reira ka māti i reira te katoatoa kia te Pūnanga Nui market i te reira rā. `Āpa no te ora ngauru te tuātau ka māti te katoatoa".

Framhein said the march will still proceed even if it rains as that day is World Fisheries Day.

"Me ua, ka māti rāi no te mea, ko te reira rā, ko te World Fisheries Day, ko te rā maata te reira o te tuanga o te ika o teia nei ao".

Framhein said the main objective of the march is to let the Government hear the Cook Islands people's voice not to give purse seine fishing rights to the European Union.

"Ko te akakoroanga maata kia rongu mai te Kavamani i te anoano o te iti tangata Kūki Airani auraka teia tikaanga tautai kupenga kia `ōrongaia ki te European Union".

Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Kōrero presenter, appealed to listeners and other Cook Islanders to be united and to support the march, protest and demonstrate their objection to Government's intention to sell more purse seine fishing licences to the European Union and to the Spanish fishing fleet.

The Spanish fishing fleet has the worse reputation in purse seine fishing in the world. It has been reported that the Kiribati Government has declined to renew its fishing licences with the Spanish fleet because of that reputation.

On a separate subject, Te Kave Kōrero presenter announced that he was giving away two prizes on the programme and invited listeners to call in and answer questions and the people with the correct answers would go into a draw to win the give away prizes.

Hakaoro advised listeners that the give away prizes, two free passes to a Safari tour, were kindly sponsored by Sam Crocombe, also known as Gumby, owner and operator of local tour company, Safari Tours.

The questions put to listeners were:

1. In a 'live' recording and rearranged version of the Tauanui and Neneva song, 'Te vaitata mai nei o te ora', who was singing that song in that recording?
2. Referring to Tina Koronui's version of the song 'Noonoo ki Enuamanu', who recorded or produced that song?
3. 'Tamaka Reebok', an original composition recorded and performed by the Sunset Special String Band, who composed the song?
4. 'Island Girl', also an original composition, which group or string band recorded and performed the song and who, in the group, sang it on the recording?
5. How many directors are there in the local company Pacific Schooners Limited, owner of the vessel Tiare Tāporo?
6. Ben Mose, Te Kave Kōrero sports reporter, asked one question. Who is the first Cook Islander to win a track and field medal at the Pacific Games in the past 50 years?

Names of callers to the programme with the right answers go into a draw, on Monday 16th November, where the winners of the give away prizes would be drawn and announced 'live' on Te Kave Kōrero.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks William Framhein for reporting the 'Breaking News' item and also thanks listeners who participated in the give away prize competition.



TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 16 NOV 2015

Purse seine march & burials at sea

Two issues were the subjects of talkback discussion, and a give away prize draw was done, on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 16th November 2015.

A caller to the programme, in introducing the first issue, said in Māori that the subject to debate on the programme should be the Spanish fishing fleet given the march against purse seine fishing.

“Ko tāku e manako nei kia uriuri tatou i rea i teia ahiahi, ko teia Spanish tautai i roto i te moana no te mea, e mātianga to te Maanākai i Rarotonga nei, ka inangaro au e, kia uriuri tatou i teia tumu tuatua, te tautaianga ki roto i to tatou moana”.

A protest march against purse seine fishing has been scheduled for Saturday 21st November at 10.30am starting at the Banana Court and moving on to the Pūnanga Nui market.

The caller said that Finance Minister, Mark Brown, got it wrong when the Minister said that fish from our ocean are moving on to other oceans and that the benefits would move from us to Kiribati or Samoa. He said fish would not migrate and that the fish in our ocean are from Samoa and Kiribati.

“No te mea kua tuatua ana te Minita o te Finance, a Mark Brown, raua ko William, te akakite ra a ia e, ka ō te ika mei roto i to tatou moana ki tetai moana, ka teke te reira meitaki ki tetai au moana mei a Kiribati, mē kāre, ki a Sāmoa. Kua tāravake a ia. I taku kiteanga, kare te ika e oro, ko teia ika e noo nei ki roto i to tatou moana, no Samoa mai e Kiribati”.

The caller said that Government knows that it is reasonably safe in our ocean as there is an abundant of fish in it and that is why they don't want to loose nine million dollars, that they want to hold on to it and control it.

“Kua kite ratou e ka safe ratou i roto i teia moana kāre e tautaiia nei, tei roto i to tatou moana te ngā'i e noo nei te ika i teia tuātau, no reira ratou e inangaro ai e, kia kore e rūti tērā iva mirioni, kia mou ratou i tērā iva mirioni ki roto i to ratou rima, ē, na ratou e akatere”.

The second caller introduced a somewhat unusual subject for discussion, burials at sea.

“Kia orana Tony, aere ua atu nei teia manako, tēnā te manako o te pāpā, kāre ōku manako no runga i te reira, e manako `akāri ua teia, no runga i to tatou moana e akariroia nei ei ngā'i vairangaanga no te kōpapa mate”.

He said that because we are concerned with our environment, that the Environment Services has been critical of our solid wastes and other matters polluting our waters, what about this (burials at sea)?

I āku, i te mea e, te pakari nei tatou i te ture, karanga tatou e, mei te Department o te Environment, i te mea e te pakari nei tatou i te ture i runga i te au tuanga o te enua, tēnā ta ratou akaapaanga e, te kino nei te enua i te au repo, te aa atu, e te vai atū ra, i tākinokino atu i to tatou tai moana, ka akapēea i reira teia tuanga?

The caller said there has now been four or five persons buried at sea.

Tāku tāmānakoanga ko te rima tangata paa teia, me kua tāravake au, mē ko te rima, mē ko te `ā tangata teia i apainaia ki to tatou moana, e ngā'i titirianga i to rātou kōpapa ea”.

The caller said that he would like the Environment Services to look at this

concern. His view is that he does not accept our waters being used as a dumping place for dead bodies.

“No reira inangaro au e kia `ākarakara mai te Environment i teia tuanga, e aa to ratou manako no teia. I tōku uaorāi manako, kāre au i mareka, kāre au e `āriki ana e, kia akariroia to tatou moana e, ei ngā'i titirianga kōpapa mate.

The give away prize competition run on Friday 13th November was drawn 'live' on the programme and the lucky winners were Vaitōti Tūpā and Munokoa Faireka.

Congratulations to the winners, you've won yourself a free pass to a Safari tour courtesy of Safari Tour owner and operator, Sam 'Gumby' Crocombe.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks callers for their participation and contribution to the talkback discussion and congratulates Vaitoti Tūpā and Munokoa Faireka, winners of the give away prizes of the two passes to a Safari tour.

Te Kave Kōrero also expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Sam Crocombe for sponsoring the give away prizes. Meitaki maata.



On Tuesday morning the QR Tom Marsters, his wife and New Zealand High Commissioner Nick Hurley and his wife travelled to Palmerston on Te Kukupa to officially open the solar power project. The project cost approximately \$1.5 million, half a million was donated by Danish Government and the other half was donated by New Zealand and Cook Islands Government. Blue-sky also travelled to Palmerston to set up the TV. - By Poko Utia

Chilcott to serenade diners

Grant Chilcott, Professional singer, band-leader and recording artist is coming to Rarotonga at the end of this month, courtesy of Pacific Resort to perform for Rarotonga, more specifically for those in the 45+ age category. Chilcott is the bandleader of Wentworth-Brewster & Co. and has been in the music industry, satisfying audiences since 1985. Chilcott has been spinning out songs from the great American songbook which has taken him to many countries including Japan, Italy, Korea, Australia and a number of Pacific Islands; but it will be his first time to come to the Cook Islands.

His main performance will be under a marquee in the luscious garden of Pacific Resort Rarotonga on the evening of Friday 27th November at 6pm, with a scrumptious gourmet dinner.

Pacific Resort is aiming for an intimate evening with local artist Kahiki entertaining during dinner before Chilcott serenades the audience for approx 1 hour and 30 minutes. The gourmet dinner will be of buffet style, and the chef will be utilizing fresh local produce in a delicious variety of dishes, including the tamarind-glazed pork belly and mouthwatering watermelon sorbet, prepared and presented in contemporary fashion. Tickets are \$75pp and includes dinner and show (show only tickets are not available). There is limited seating for this event and although he won't be going to Aitutaki, he will be doing a free live entertainment for dinner guests on Tuesday 2nd December at the Sandals Restaurant & Barefoot Bar.

To book for this event, call Pacific Resort Rarotonga reception on 20-427 or email weddings.rarotonga@pacificresort.com.



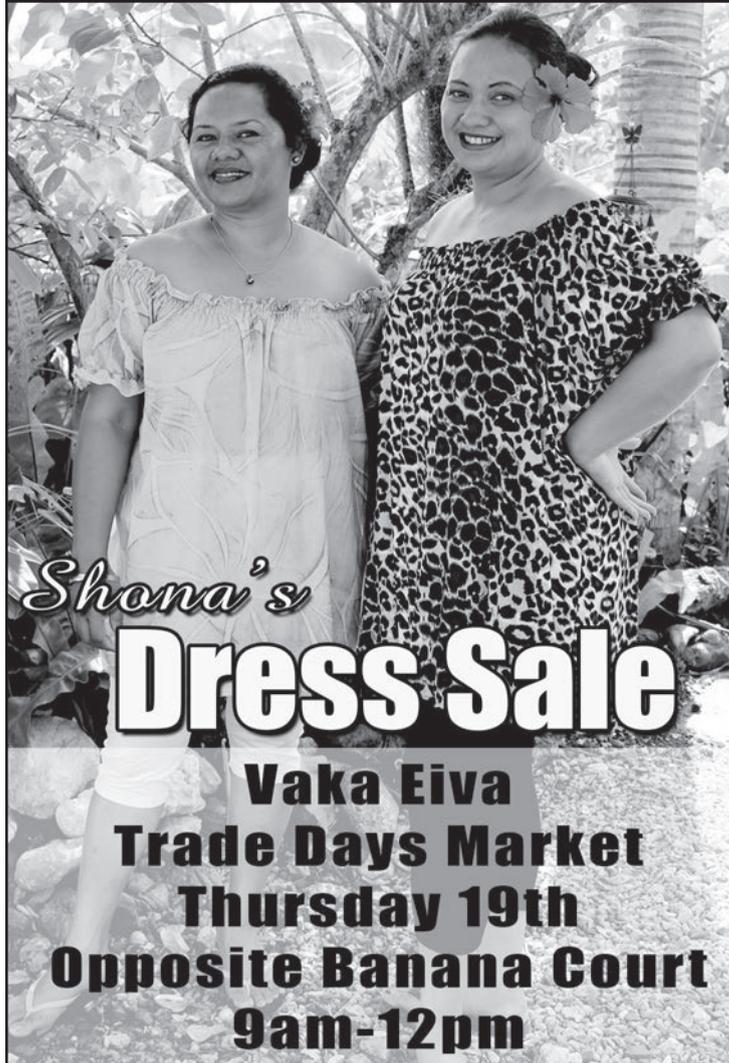
Pacific Resort Rarotonga welcomes you to enjoy an evening under the stars with the acclaimed

NEW ZEALAND CROONER Grant Chilcott

Join us for dinner and a live performance at
6PM | FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER | \$75PP

FOR BOOKINGS:

weddings.rarotonga@pacificresort.com
or call +682 20427



Shona's
Dress Sale
Vaka Eiva
Trade Days Market
Thursday 19th
Opposite Banana Court
9am-12pm



HUGE SUPER PRE XMAS CAR SALE

Arriving 4th December 2015

(Photos of 15 of the 35 cars available)



WESTERN UNION | *yes!*

money transfer

INFORMATION ON AVOIDING SCAMS

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.

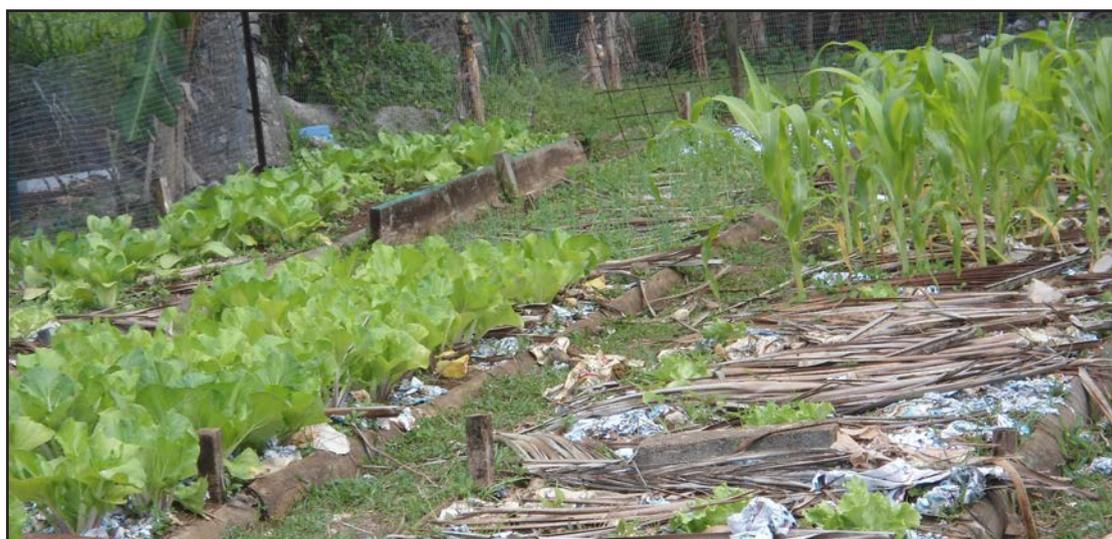
If you suspect you have been a victim of a scam you can call our helpful team at Western Union on (+682) 27707

Rutaki School Harvest

By Courtney Matai

Rutaki Primary School's main Topic Study of the year is Junk for Funk, which involves students from grades one to six who have participated in growing their very own vegetable garden. The vegetables growing in their vegetable garden are corn, onions, lettuce and Chinese cabbage (Bok Choy). Last Friday was the students first time harvesting and Wednesday 11th was their last harvest time. Each class was allocated a section in the garden to grow their chosen vegetables. Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 have already harvested their crops while grades 1 and 2 are still to harvest their vegetable crops.

The School grounds men are also involved with the students topic study as they help by getting the soil ready for growing by turning the soil to make it fertile. Once the soil is ready for planting, the students from each class also get their hands dirty by laying wet newspaper on the surface of soil, as well as old coconut palm leaves. Food scraps and shredded newspaper is used for compost so that it could help fertilize the soil. The reason why they are using recycling methods is because for the past few years, the soil has been running out of nutrients and so with the help of the scraps going into the soil, it has made the soil fertile enough



for growing crops. By using the scraps from student's lunches such as banana peels, orange peels and so on, it has helped minimize scrap waste around the

school as it has been put to use. The school Principal Ms Nooroa Ingaua says that with this little program, the young students of Rutaki get an early education on

how to grow their own vegetable crop.

The crop harvested was given out to students and also used to prepare meals for the students.

It starts at home

By Poko Utia

Well known local carver Mike Tavioni is better known as one of our finest artists however, he also has a very keen interest in agriculture and in young people learning about agriculture.

Mike started out as an agriculturist, he is a graduate of Massey University in NZ and was previously involved in genetic experiments with plants. He has also taught local, at risk youngsters in planting.

Mike's teaching method

covered the botanical and Maori names of plants, the use of fertilizers, basic soil science, the economics of growing and health benefits from different planting methods.

Last week he spoke with the Herald about his views on agriculture and what he thinks about people not getting back into planting. He said people and kids need to plant and not import food from overseas because it can cause great harm to your health. He believes that kids need to be educated in

order to understand the value of agriculture. Mike wants to know why teachers at school are basing the learning around things kids haven't seen. He thinks that teachers should teach kids about tomatoes and lettuce instead of teaching them about things you can't grow here or won't see for example, rabbits.

He said we shouldn't be eating imported food because it puts us at risk, we put our health at risk. He thinks agriculture needs to start at home then be

carried on at school. Mike said that when growing up, at school there was plantation where they would grow their own food. And everyone was involved with the growing of crops. Now he looks around and not enough of our youth are growing crops because they that think it's embarrassing. He believes that some people think their status may be ruined if they are seen as planters which he thinks is sad. He wants to know who will change societies views on Agriculture.

Tereora College Agriculture and Horticulture

By Courtney Matai

Here in the Cook Islands, students involvement in and study of Agriculture and Horticulture is very low. Agriculture and Horticultural studies involves the practice of farming, soil cultivation, livestock, gardening and cultivation of plants and trees. Nowadays it is noticeable that there are rarely any young people planting or growing crops other than the parents or grandparents.

Tereora College now has a Greenhouse which will be used by the Horticulture department in order to teach students on a practical level. Hydroponic gears which have been donated by the Government have also made it

easier for Horticulture teachers to teach students, now that they have the resources to do so.

Last week the Herald spoke with Mr Paio who is currently teaching at Tereora College and is the Head of Department of Agriculture & Horticulture. He told us that he too has noticed that not many young students are getting involved with planting nowadays as he says, "Young people of today don't want to get their hands dirty."

There are about 67 students altogether from yr 10 and level 1-3 who have taken the subject of Agriculture and Horticulture. The Year 10 students who take Horticulture with Mr Paio are doing a lot of practical aspects of Agriculture & Horticulture,

such as sowing of the seeds. About 60% of the studying in Mr Paio's Horticulture class is practical, while the other 40% is theory work as he encourages the students to do hands on experience by planting crops such as tomatoes, egg plants, Chinese cabbage (Bok Choy) and Taro.

Students who take level 1 and 2 Horticulture class get an opportunity to receive a certificate of Horticulture and with level 3 they study Agriculture & Horticulture economics. From his experience, the students that join his classes are usually students who have learnt a bit about growing crops and planting from their parents and grandparents.

"If you talk to them about their life goals, they will say that they'd rather stay here and be based around home to carry on learning." However the brighter students who have also joined his class base their goals on their future careers and high flying careers and so travel overseas to further their studies. There are less young people growing at home. This is where the progressing of Horticulture education must start. Last year instead of selling the crops that he along with his students have grown, he allowed the students to take a share of the crops home, however most of them prefer to cook it there at school rather than take it home.

A subject close to his heart

By Poko Utia

Last week, the Herald spoke to Titikaveka teacher, Mr Vaopaaki Tearetoa, about teaching young people planting. Known as Mr T for short, he works at the College as a Horticulturist, Graphic design teacher and design and technology teacher. From the island of Aitutaki. He travelled to Rarotonga and was educated at Tereora College where he won a scholarship and went overseas for awhile till he returned and began teaching at Tikikaveka College for a year, Tereora for a year then he was sent to teach at Araura College in Aitutaki.

Mr Tearetoa said agriculture has always been something close to his heart and he is saddened that a lot of kids do not plant anymore. He said that most of the foods that we are eating are being imported from overseas and he is not comfortable with that. Mr Tearetoa is currently teaching 28 students who are doing very well in the subject of planting.

Mr Tearetoa said he was happy that Brian Tairea was able to help him out with the planting and that he is very grateful towards him. Throughout the year they have been growing taro, cucumber, Chinese cabbages, tomatoes' and so on. Mr Tearetoa is very proud of his students and he tries to teach them the Maori and scientific names for the fruits that they are able to grow.



Mr Vaopaaki Tearetoa and student Ben Marsters

Pacific perspectives on a woman's work

Associate Professor
Amanda Noovao-Hill
Associate Member
RANZCOG

*Story courtesy of
O&G Magazine*

I am a Pacific Island obstetrician and gynaecologist. I obtained my degree in 2005, and was registered as a specialist in 2007. I currently work as a consultant and assistant professor for the Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (FNU, CMNHS) at the Lautoka Hospital Medical Campus. I am mother to four year old twins and have a very supportive and loving husband.

The eldest of five siblings, I was born in Fiji but grew up in the Cook Islands. My parents live in the Cook Islands and my siblings live in Australia. Dad is a Cook Islander and retired surgeon. Mum is Fijian-Chinese and is an early childhood educator. Education was a big part of our lives and my parents were insistent that we complete our education so that we would be able to support ourselves and be independent. I grew up with that mentality of needing to complete school in order to be successful and happy. My mentality is different now. Life is not so compartmentalized and simple. I have grown to realize one never stops learning, success has different meanings to different people and happiness is personal.

The islands are a beautiful place to grow up. This is one reason why my husband and I have decided to remain in the Pacific to raise our children. We both grew up in the islands. My identity is that of a Pacific Islander. I know the language, the customs and the dance of my father's people. I have a similar knowledge of my mother's cultures. Despite experiencing the cultural prejudices of older relatives favouring our brothers and educationists doubting our abilities because we were girls, my sister and I grew up in a home environment that promoted equality with regards

to education and opportunity and household chores.

Our culture can be both supportive and counterproductive. Interwoven into most Pacific island cultures is Christianity. The combination of culture and Christian faith plays an important role in my line of work. In some instances, it provides a supportive structure or coping mechanism for women and their families who have had an adverse obstetric or gynaecological outcome. Some may be so accepting of an outcome that they simply say, "It was God's will." Similarly, another situation that requires available medical intervention to avoid an adverse outcome may be met with the response, "We will leave it up to God" and medical intervention is declined. These instances require a great deal of patience, tact and reflection.

My undergraduate and postgraduate training was done at the Fiji School of Medicine, now called the Fiji National University. My Diploma in obstetrics and gynaecology was from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. I got this after failing twice. Lifelong friends were made during these years of training. As students we were treated well and fairly by most medical and nursing staff; however, I recall, with little fondness, the males being favoured over the female students, particularly during attachments to the maternity units. The medical workforce at the time seemed to be predominantly male. There appears to be a slight shift in the gender balance nowadays and current FNU College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences enrolment records a 60-66 per cent female intake.

After getting my specialist degree, I remember vividly a moment of overwhelming panic and despair. There were expectations of me to perform as a successful specialist, to role model professional behavior, make a ton of money, find a suitable life-partner and have children. I made a conscious decision then to put all that on hold and went to work in Christchurch, New Zealand, for 6 months. Watching the rugby was

an added bonus.

The Lautoka Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit currently has nine female registrars, five female academic faculty, one private female specialist and two male consultants. Of the nine female registrars: two have completed postgraduate training, four are current trainees and the remaining three registrars hope to get on to the training program in the next year or two.

My academic duties require me to supervise and mentor undergraduate and postgraduate trainees in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology. In addition, I supervise international elective students, including James Cook University fifth-year medical students during their Fiji obstetrics and gynaecology rotation. Recently, Cuban graduates from other Pacific Islands have returned home and I was part of an FNU team that travelled to Kiribati every three months to conduct their internship assessments. During my time with the University I have been well supported and mentored and, as a result, have obtained a Graduate Certificate in Medical Education; been appointed the position of Adjunct Lecturer in the College of Medicine and Dentistry at the James Cook University, Queensland, Australia; and been invited to participate on two RANZCOG Committees—the Asia Pacific and Global Women's Health Committee and the CPD Program for O&G Specialists Advisory Committee. Later this year I hope to use an academic Scholarship awarded to me by RANZCOG to further complement my clinical experience by attending the Anatomy of Surgical Complications Workshop in Perth in September.

My clinical duties involve conducting 7:30am teaching handover rounds for the unit, supervising obstetric and gynae ward rounds, antenatal and gynaecology clinics, elective gynae surgery, and doing a one-in –three consultant on-call duty roster. A recent on-call shift at 2 am one Thursday morning involved devising balloon tamponade

using a condom, 16F Foley balloon catheter, feeding tube and normal saline to manage the atonic uterus of a 16 year primigravida who had delivered twins vaginally four hours earlier at a subdivisional hospital an hour away. I then managed to return home to have breakfast with the family before the twins headed off to kindergarten and then back to work for 7:30am handover rounds.

In 2012, the Fiji Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society (FOGS) was born. Since then it has held two annual scientific meetings that have been well attended by local and international participants involved in reproductive health in the Pacific. I am the Secretary and Treasurer for the Society.

The three roles I have as academic faculty, hospital clinician and Executive member of FOGS are well served when it comes to organising and participating in workshops and conferences in Fiji and around the Pacific. Examples of these have been ultrasound scan, laparoscopy and basic surgical skills, protecting the perineum in childbirth and perineal repair, intrapartum care, and emergency obstetric and neonatal care workshops. Most of these have involved overseas specialist facilitators or travelling to other Pacific Islands to facilitate workshops.

It is no easy feat juggling work and family commitments. There is no formula or app for this. Every professional wife, mother, clinician and academic has their own strategy or recipe for managing all their commitments. Perseverance, personal strength, a supportive partner and family, and the confidence to accept that one cannot always be in control of everything all the time certainly helps. A quote I came across recently by the CEO for the Global Women's Fund, Kavita Ramdas says: 'We need women who are so strong that they can be gentle, so educated that they can be humble, so fierce that they can be compassionate, and so disciplined that they can be free.' This sums up the qualities I believe are necessary for me to manage my juggling act as a Pacific Island Working Woman.

Art Exhibition promotes closer ties

By Haley McNabb

Monday 16th November Beachcomber Art Gallery displays the celebration of the Matariki Maori Art Exhibition that took place in Avarua over 15th-20th June 2015. During the week long programme, young carvers and weavers from the New Zealand Maori Arts and Craft Institute worked alongside Cook Islands artists to create new connections through their sharing and exchange of culture and art. This exhibition was hosted by the New Zealand High Commission and marks the 50th anniversary of Cook Islands self-government in free association with New Zealand.

The artwork forms a set of work that reflects and celebrates the relationship which emphasises the strong historical and cultural links between the Cook Islands and New Zealand. The exhibition provided an opportunity for a new generation of artists to



practice and demonstrate their skills, while also building new relationships between our two countries.

This programme also included visits from around Rarotonga, providing an opportunity for Cook Islands children to experience the carving and weaving art being made and interact with the artists.

The exhibition consisted of 18 amazing pieces and they all came with a beautiful message

behind it describing the meaning and inspiration the artists got when they decided to create their piece of art. There were stories of Tangaroa, Navigating Shared Histories, Carving New Connections and many more.

Art and Artists:

Art: 1: Tangaroa 2: Tokomaru 3: Kurahaupo 4: Aotea 5: Takitumu 6: Tainui 7: Te Arawa 8: Mataatua

Artists: James Eruera, Grant Marunui, Keanu Manuel, Tukiri Tini, Shane Poihipi-Paul, Jacob

Tautari, Haimona Brown,

9: KiiKii Tomokino, 10: Ara Matangi - Raniera Ellison,

11: Tangaroa I te Titi - Stormy Kara,

12: Daniel Teheipuarii,

13: Tangaroa I te ATa- Stormy Kara,

14: Marama - Raniera Ellison,

15: Wailess Tomokino,

Art: 16-18: The Tradition of Tukutuku Artists: Hectorina Mulligan and Ross Wesche,

Flavas to excite you

By Poko Utia

Last Friday the Herald spoke with Carl and Wilma Green the owners of "Flavas," who sell ice cream flavoured with local fruits.

Their caravan can be found at or near the Punanga Nui Market most days from about 11am. The servings cost from \$3 upwards.

We asked how they got the idea of selling ice cream with the mixture of fruits within and on the ice cream. Carl started of by saying that the idea came to them when they visited the island, they saw that there was only the Tiptop brand selling and that there was a variety of local fruits available. So they decided why not join the two together? The idea behind Flavas was to combine the two things people love the most, fruits and ice cream.

Wilma Green is a Cook Islander but was brought up in New Zealand, the couple have been back and forth for awhile and they have decided to finally move back home. They brought



their family of three to the Island and so far are loving their stay.

Their business has become very popular and if you haven't

yet tasted their beautiful variety of Ice Cream then we strongly suggest you do. Flavas Ice Cream is definitely a must taste thing on

your to do list.

The Flavors available include berry banana, lime and coconut, chocolate.

Pageant Crazy Cook Islands

Preparations are well underway for the Miss Pacific Islands cultural showcase being hosted right here in the Cook Islands from the 6th to the 12th of December. The community at large is being called upon to support the Miss Pacific Islands pageant and the host of activities and events planned for the week.

The pageant committee being coordinated by the Miss Cook Islands Pageant Association has been joined by a number of volunteers to bring to life the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant. Fans and followers can expect the contestants and teams to participate in a week long schedule of judged and public events, appearances and public engagements, and some outer islands travel. The full programme has now been endorsed by the Miss Pacific Islands Board and details will be released via the media this week.

Elements of the 7 day

programme are being coordinated with community groups, schools, sponsors and Government agencies and will be released this week along with news about major sponsors and contestants.

Adopt a country programme

An adopt a country/contestant programme is being coordinated by the committee with schools and community groups. School children will learn about their chosen country and its culture, make flags and banners to support their contestant, and come along to the public events to support their adopted country and contestant.

International community groups are being encouraged to support their contestant too. So far the international communities who live here from Tonga, Fiji, Samoa and American Samoa, and Niue have shown interest. With Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea soon to confirm their contestants the community will be called upon

to support these countries too.

Official Accommodation and Venues

The official accommodation venue for the Miss Pacific Islands is the friendly Club Raro Resort.

With its proximity to Avarua town and the national auditorium, the recently refurbished resort is the host accommodation for contestants, chaperones and country Board members during the pageant.

Stunning Muri Beach Club Hotel in Ngatangia will be the venue of the first judged section of the pageant, the prepared presentation and interview. The panel of international judges for the pageant will be accommodated by Liana Scott and the team at Muri Beach Club Hotel.

This venue will also host the Miss Pacific Islands Board Meeting and Judges Meetings.

The luxurious Crown Beach Resort and Spa will be the venue for the official welcome cocktail function, which this

year will feature an Island Feast and entertainment Cook Islands style.

Limited tickets will be on sale to the public for this event.

Te Are Karioi Nui - The National Auditorium in Tupapa, is confirmed as the official venue of the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant. With capacity seating near 1900 people, tickets are expected to sell out on both nights of the official public judging – Friday 11th December; Opening Night and Talent section, and Saturday 12th December; Sarong section, Traditional Costume section, and Stage Interview section followed by the Crowning.

Coming Up

Look out for more news this week regarding contestants being finalised including a potential exciting last minute registration. Major sponsorship has been finalised in the last week and details of this support and partnership will be announced this week also.

Vaka Eiva
Trade Days 2015
@ THE MAIRE NUI PARK
(OPPOSITE BANANA COURT)

Thursday & Friday
19th & 20th November 2015
9am - 2pm

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Vaka Eiva Rocking

By *Teherenui Koteka*

Yes folks it's that time of year, the time when Trader Jacks is the life of the island and the time when the Vaka Shed is filled with people from all around the world. Yes I'm talking about Matson Vaka Eiva. For us who spend three – six days on the water in preparation for this awesome time of year, Vaka Eiva never comes fast enough, even now when it is only a few days away I find myself anxiously awaiting registration day. I have no doubt that many of you out there frequently attend the Vaka Eiva festivities, however I suspect you are not all aware of everything Vaka Eiva has to offer.

Vaka Eiva for many is known as the time of year when paddlers from all over the world come to Rarotonga to compete in outrigger canoe races. Yes it is correct to assume that paddling is the only thing Vaka Eiva has to offer, but like I said 'assume' and assumptions are not always correct. For example every Vaka Eiva a Trade Day is held at the park opposite the Banana Court. These Trade Days are a grand exhibition of all the products our fantastic islands have to offer. This year the Trades Days will be held on the 19th and 20th of November.

Thanks to the Business Trade Investment Board [BITB], paddlers from overseas are graced with the opportunity to sample our local Cook Island products, and are even awarded with the opportunity to take a little bit of the Cook Islands home with them. Of course it is always awesome to see our locals attending the Trade Days as well.

On Friday the 20th of November, Vaka Eiva is officially opened. This year the wonderful organisers of the event have made a tremendous effort to incorporate more Cook Island culture into the Matson Vaka Eiva opening. In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Vaka Eiva opening will be celebrated along with the Maire Tiare festival week. For those of us who have played witness to the majestic display that accompanies the festival of flowers, we know that it is not

one to be missed.

The colourful celebration will commence at 3pm opposite the Banana Court where a float parade will start, the parade will waltz down through the Avarua Township and conclude at Constitution Park. The official opening will be led by our Minister of Culture, the Honourable Teariki Heather. Following this a traditional turou will be conducted by the traditional leaders of Vaka Te au o Tonga. The turou will be conducted to welcome all the paddlers into the Vaka Village where the canoe blessing will be held. Our traditional Vaka Te Marumaruatua will moored opposite Trader Jacks, a cultural drumming group will provide the atmosphere for the boiler swim which will also take place on the 20th. Everyone is welcome to join the boiler swim, the entry fee is a gold coin. The course of the swim is from Trader Jacks beach to the boiler and back. Afterwards there will be the Western Union deposit cash back prize draw. I encourage everyone to attend this fantastic event.

On Saturday the 21st of November, the V1 and OC1 iron races will be held at Trader Jacks. Truly a test of endurance, sturdy men and women of all ages will take to the water in an effort to return from the 12+km races victorious. Of course those who are successful in this goal will earn the right to call themselves champions in the singles division. Saturday night will also consist of a special performance by the Tupapa Maraerenga cultural group. They will conduct a special performance incorporating the four disciplines from Te Maire Maeva Nui. Their performance will consist of a Pe'e, Ute, Kaparima and Ura Pau, telling that story of welcoming visitors to the land of Rarotonga.

Monday the 23rd of November is a very special night, and one that I am much looking forward to. Monday is scheduled to be the night of the Paddle Art Exhibition. This exhibition will take place at LBV Avarua from 5pm and all are welcome to attend. The exhibition will consist of paddles that have

been decorated by over 40 artists from Rarotonga. Having personally gotten a sneak peak at what the show has to offer I can guarantee that you want to be there to check out this amazing art. It is an exhibition that should not be missed, and I urge you all to attend.

Wednesday the 25th is the Muri Sprint Day, for paddlers Muri Sprint Day is one where you make a ton of fun, quirky memories. Held outside Sails every year the Muri Sprint Day is one the highlights of the Vaka Eiva experience. Even if you are not paddling the day is filled with the promise of a fantastic experience. Everyone is most welcome to come down and watch the sprint races within beautiful Muri Lagoon. The staff at Sails can provide you with great food and cold drinks while you enjoy the teeth clenching fun of the sprint races. This year Muri Sprint day coincides with white ribbon day. White ribbon day promotes anti-violence against women and girls and this year in collaboration with Punaga Tauturu and Cook Island Police, CICA will be holding a special white ribbon race for men. A great way to promote the message of anti-violence against women and girls.

This year the Closing Ceremony for Vaka Eiva looks to be one of the greatest yet. Closing this year Cook Islands Canoeing Association has put in a real treat, instead of having international musicians like we do every year we will be having

a line-up of 18 local musicians. Among those performing are local favourites such as Brown and Texia, Pani and Rose, and Kahiki. Guaranteed to be an awesome night and a fantastic end to this year's Vaka Eiva Festival, I am here anxiously awaiting it's date.

Of course Matson Vaka Eiva would not be possible without sponsors. Cook Islands Canoeing Association would like to thank our gold sponsor Matson for their generous sponsorship and for providing the kaikai for the opening and closing ceremonies. We would also like to thank our silver sponsors, Pacific Resort for keeping our volunteers sustained throughout the festival, Bluesky for sponsoring communications and social media, Polynesian rental car and bike hire, CITC for being an eco-partner, Edgewater Resort and Cook Island News for keeping the public up to date with the latest Matson Vaka Eiva News. Also a big shout out to the bronze sponsors Island Car and Bike Hire, Yatchbot for sponsoring our GPS trackers and lastly Sails for hosting our Muri Sprint day as well as the Junior Muri Day.

Like I said Matson Vaka Eiva can be fun for everyone. If you have the opportunity definitely come and check out some of the events that will be occurring over the next week. If you would like to keep up with the latest Vaka Eiva News hit up the Vaka Eiva facebook page and other social networking pages.



QR inspects Police guard of honour with Police Commissioner Maara Tetava before travelling to Palmerston on Te Kukupa on Tuesday morning.

The World NCDs

By Lucianne Vainerere

We've all heard about what's been happening around the world. Terrorist attacks, suicide bombings, nuclear activity and many deaths of innocent people – simple civilians. We all know that social media plays an important part in this generation making the youth have greater accessibility to world news.

We all know what happened in Paris, France on November 13th, 2015 and by that evening the world was sporting the blue, white and red colors in support of the country during this devastating time. Don't get me wrong, seeing the world come to this is great. Maybe even greater than great. Differences set aside and unity and brotherhood displayed.

However there were many other countries in the world that went through terrorist attacks, suicide bombings, nuclear activity and kidnapping of masses, yet the world was silent and dark. No colors stood out in those silent evenings. It took one large and 'popular' country for the world to finally take notice of ALL the damage that we ourselves have been causing to our home.

Although a lot happened in one day we slowly mute out the significance of other horrific events that happened before hand. We remember the date the twin towers were destroyed in the United States. I think it's safe to assume we remember because of how large and known the country is.

None of the good that America has done over the years have been highlighted enough globally for everyone to actually remember. Who do we blame for these horrifying events? Who is to blame for all of this? Every country points fingers. Always starting from the top where the power is (our world leaders), then it makes its way down to the people. Leaders are nothing without followers and in the end the people have the strongest voices.

We do live in a corrupt society, with secrets passing here and there, manipulation at it's finest and everything gets directed to the religions. Muslims, Jews, Christians are to blame for the attacks and get treated as a race and not a religion. But they aren't the ones to blame. There are individuals, groups whom some have been named and some still lurk in the background. And because we don't fully know and understand what's really happening and the reasoning behind it accusations fly everywhere, bonds are broken, friendships forgotten and bonds inexistent.

What are we up to? We can dim down to the smaller things too, letting immature and irrational people criticize cultures – saying it's offensive to their gender and it hints at sexual activity. No names will be mentioned but how crazy does that sound? Culture – a form of identity hinting at something so far from what it really is. It's either pure arrogance or simple stupidity. You pick. But here we are living far enough from where it's all happening and we take advantage of what we have wishing we had more to fulfill our human desires and satisfaction. Where is the love?

By Tiana Haxton

During this week, from Monday to Friday it will be World Diabetic Week. On Mitiaro a workshop will be held offering free cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure, weight and height measurements to the community.

There will also be an Ura Fitness class. Mitiaro School will be taking part in a competition. The younger students have a colouring in activity while we seniors have been given the task to write poems. As Diabetes are classified as an NCD, we must write a free verse poem about NCDs. As we students have been researching NCDs I have decided to write an article about NCDs.

What are NCDs?

My fellow classmates and I asked around and were informed, NCDs stands for Non Communicable Diseases.

Well, what are Non Communicable Diseases?

With help from Google and Wikipedia, we learnt that NCDs are diseases that cannot be transmitted or passed on from one person to another.

NCDs come in many forms, diabetes, cancer, kidney disease and so on. Heart attacks are also considered as NCDs.

But, if we can't get NCDs from other people, how do we get NCDs?

There are many causes. Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are the main causes of cancer and kidney diseases. Obesity due to an unhealthy life style, environment and very little or no physical activity are very common causes of NCDs.

NCDs can only be passed from person to person through your genes. It can pass from generation to generation. If your parents and/or members of your family tree have a history of NCDs, there is a greater risk of you developing NCDs.

NCDs can kill. Over 60 percent (3 out of 5) global deaths are caused by NCDs. In the Cook Islands alone, 70 percent (7 out of 10) deaths are NCD related. In 2012, 85 of the 121 deaths in the Cook Islands were caused by NCDs.

How then, can we prevent NCDs?

First, we must identify the risks in or own life and eliminate them. Cutting down, or even better, quitting smoking and drinking, avoiding the temptations of splurging frequently on high sugar, salt and fatty foods, exercising to keep fit and healthy.

Not only will a healthy life style help you avoid NCDs, it will make you feel and look better. You will be full of energy and will be able to spend more time and have fun with family and friends.

So lets all lead a happy, healthy life, and kia manuia, may you live long.

Correction

Maths Quiz-Final results for Mitiaro

By Tiana Haxton

Upon returning home to Mitiaro from the Maths Quiz in Rarotonga, the final results were sent through. The Mitiaro year seven team remains in 4th place. Due to technical issues, we believed that the Mitiaro year 10 team had come 5th. This was reported in the Herald two weeks ago. However, it was confirmed that we were placed 7th.

We are still happy though to be in the top ten.

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Let us fix our eyes on Jesus *Part 2*

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this theme I stated that the path-way we're going through in life is very exciting and challenging. The main scripture reading is in Hebrews 12v.2 (GN) which reads "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right-hand side of God's throne." There are 3 important lessons from this verse.

I Our Focus v.2(a) reads "Let us keep our eyes fix on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end". No one knows what lies ahead for any of us. We all have our plans and dreams but we believe God is in-charge of our future.

II. Our Example v.2(b) "...He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, ..." In this portion of the scripture is the principle of delayed gratification (enjoyment; pleasure; delight). For example giving up the good to obtain the best. Students give up social life to study. There is sacrifice involved - one is forfeited that a higher one might be achieved. There is pain involved, but it is pain endured for the sake of the joy that comes when the goal is reached. No pain, no gain. No suffering, no glory. No cross, no crown. No tears, no joy.

III. Our Hope v.2(c) "...and he is now seated at the right-hand side of God's throne." It means that the work of redemption is now complete. He must have the preeminence (dominance) in our lives because God has given Him a name that is above every name (Philippians 2v.9). Ephesians 2v.4-6 reads "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of

His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus," These are wonderful verses saying that by grace we have been saved, raised, and even seated with Christ in heaven. Because we are joined with Him by faith, where Christ is right now, we are there with Him. We have a share in the victory He won through His death and resurrection. This truth, wonderful as it is, is hard to comprehend, especially when most of us are dragging through the mud of daily lives. We do not "feel" seated in the heavenly places. But from God's point of view, the battle is over and the victory is already ours. And someday when we see Christ, all that is His will become ours because we are "joint-heirs" with Jesus. Our great hope in the race set before us is that one day soon we will cross the finish line and will be seated with our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven.

In Hebrews 12v.1 it reads "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance (patience) the race that God has set before us." Three simple thoughts come to mind: 1) The only way to win the race is to keep our eyes on Jesus. We have everything we need to help us along the way. Don't be distracted by the things of the world. 2) When hard times come, don't start with our problems. Start with Jesus and then go back to our problems. Review what you know about our Lord—His mercy, His grace, His kindness, His power, and so on. Once you have laid the foundation from the Word of God, then you can find your way back to your problems.

That doesn't mean you will understand all that happens to you but it does mean that your starting point is very important. Start with Jesus, not your problems. 3) When you feel like giving up, remember that in God's eyes you are already a winner. Remember who you are and who you belong to. God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love and power and a sound mind (II Timothy 1v.7). Let that truth of God give you strength when you feel like you cannot go on. In Christ there is strength, lean on Him. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te aroa.



PUBLIC NOTICE



" FAMILY LAW BILL" INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Public is hereby advised that a Parliamentary Special Select Committee for the Family Law Bill has been established to go over the Bill and invite public submissions. Written submissions are to be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao. Those who wish to make oral submissions are invited to make known their intentions to the Clerk of Parliament on telephone 26500 or email john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck Closing dates for submissions is Friday 11th December 2015, 4.00 p.m. Copy of the Bill with Explanatory Note are available on the following website <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> Otherwise a hard copy can be obtained from Parliament at \$10."

Te akakite iatu nei ki te katoatoa e kua akatupuia e te Paramani tetai Kumiti Takake no te Ture Tamanako note Kopu'tangata. Kua akaue ia teia Kumiti kia akara ki roto i te Ture Tamanako ma te kimi matatio i tetai au tuanga no te akameitaki atu i teia kia tau no te akateretere'anga e kia ripoti atu teia au kimikimi'anga ki te Paramani. Ko tetai uatu tangata tei anoano i te tuku mai i to kotou manako no teia, kia tata mai ki te Karaka o te Paramani Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao. Me kua anoano koe i te aravei e te tuatua i toou manako kite Kumiti kia akakite katoa mai kite Karaka i runga i te tereponi 26500 me kore kote rorouira john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck . Ka topiri'ia te aka'ari'anga manako a te Varaire ra 11 o Titema 2015 i te ora 4 i te avatea aia. Ka rauka mai teia Ture Tamanako ki runga i te roro'uira a te katoatoa <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> me kore kia tiki mai i teia no ko i te Paramani e \$10.

John Tangi
Clerk"

Mumu Dress

by Richard Tekeu

I truly believe that each and everyone one of us here on earth has a purpose. A purpose to believe. A purpose to live. A calling. The reason why, we get out of bed every morning. The reason why, we do what we do. And just recently, I believe that I have finally heard my calling. Although I have had this feeling several times before, it was so much stronger this time round that I just couldn't ignore it.

The Pacific Fashion is my calling. It is my destiny. I was born for this sole purpose and I am now ready to express it.

I am a New Zealand born Cook Islander and I have so much love and passion for Polynesian Fashion.

I have come to a crossroad in my life journey where the time is right to take this path. I am now ready to use the skills I have gained along the way and equipped with the talent that I have been truly blessed with and share my work and ideas with our people, our country, our world.

I am currently at the very beginning stages of this new and exciting venture and have had so much interest and feedback. Juggling a full time job, dress orders and on the side projects as well as keeping up with all the keen followers and supporters via my Facebook Page has been super crazy but so life changing and fulfilling at the same time.

The support from the Facebook comments is so positive and encouraging and definitely gives me the extra drive I need to continue through this journey and set a goal

to succeed in the Polynesian Fashion Industry.

The ideas and feedback, although mainly from our Cook Island people, has also drawn in the attention of other cultures and nationalities which is fantastic coverage for not only me and my journey, but also our Cook Island culture and heritage.

Currently, at these beginning stages, I will be focussing on womenswear and will progress from there depending on interest.

The garments I strive to create will definitely represent me and will tell my story – I am a New Zealand born Cook Islander, who embraces and acknowledges our Cook Island culture through my designs and ideas. I call it "The Hidden Identity".

I have great love for our Cook Island culture from arts and crafts, food, dance, costume and language to its natural beauty and this, I endeavour to portray in my line of clothing. All my garments will be Cook Island inspired and will express how proud I am (and we all should be) to be Cook Island. I want women to feel luxurious and elegant yet comfortable when wearing my garments - everything our Pacific women want in their clothing.

I have big and growing ideas and plans for this journey and feel absolutely blessed to be able to finally share it. This is going to be a truly amazing, exciting and equally tough ride ahead, but I am completely ready for it and all the opportunities that follow.

Ka kite, kia manuia

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."
Eleanor Roosevelt



Now that Mikie Enery's dream boat has finally arrived and the delivery captain taken off, there is an opening for a new skipper. But the question is has the Minita of the money Brown Mark's best friend paid up the VAT in full? Also as the Chairman of CIC, does he pay for berthing fees or does the dirty looking ship take up valuable space for free? Or is this just another perk for the corrupt CIP inner circle boys club.



Last Saturday morning tempers out in the wild West got heated up to the point of a full on fisty cuff only split hairs from taking place. A bit unusual for the two heavy weight brothers being so testosterone when most of the time Minita of the Bulldozer bully boy DPM Teariki and his brother Smelly leader of the dead opposition are known to have soft balls. While Smelly was cleaning the Arorangi Club house for the Demo barbecue and dance Teariki came on strong almost throwing punches. Now they could have signed a contract to transfer the bare fist fight to the big hall and sold tickets with the winner taking all the gate money including the Prime Ministers belt in a coalition.



Talking about the Opposition they spend most of their energy having fundraising parties instead of doing the real opposition work taxpayers give them \$202,000 a year to do. Notice they can't spell either their newspaper advert said there will be a Wults dancing competition.



The Airport Fire Service are a laughing stock among other staff and some members of the public. Even though there has been a new Fire Chief, the retired one is still employed as an advisor to the new one now in the second year of a lucrative contract. The retiree even wears the Fire



Chief's epaulettes indicating he is the Fire Chief. So who is Fire Chief One and who is Fire Chief Two?



Pull up your socks PM Samoa says stop worrying about the money, Samoa now reported to be \$1.1 billion in debt, that's only \$73million in loan repayments a year. The trick is to keep those socks pulled right up.



While he was here to witness the switching on of the NZ Aid funded solar installations up North code hopper Shane Jones in no uncertain terms told the government then the opposition not to let the Spanish fishing lot into our waters. Now that our cash hungry MFEM desperately need the money and signed up the Spanish marine rapists Jones is denying he ever said such horrible things about them to our politicians. That's called diplomacy.



Not many picked it up but our self exalting big noting ecstatic Elvis Foonery was snubbed by the filthy rich NZ Maori King Movement. Little did Elvis realise he was being tolerated not celebrated, that honour went to Nandi Glassie. Glassie got invited to speak on the mare, that's the place of prestige, Elvis did a speech in the

hall. Glassie speaks fluent old Maori and is well versed in all things of importance to Maori. Also he is a personal friend of the King from back in the day before either of them were famous.



Word from the blonde mina bird is Elvis the unpopular 78 vote Prime Minister is back doing what he knows best, wasting public money chartering Air Raro flights to the north.



What a shabby way to treat the Esta Honie Foundation, this government should be ashamed, without their decades of help at virtually minimal cost to the tax payer they have made a great contribution to the local economy by playing a crucial role in curbing the dog/tourism problem. Any other country would have gifted them a premises, at least they have looked after the building and not let the animal users burn it down at a huge cost to the tax payer.



That's another fine mess you've got us into! This is probably what the Minita o te Moni Lord Brown Marks is muttering about Sir Filchard Peves, the Treasury's prime tea leaf reader, bone tosser and tarot card interpreter! Seems some of the Empire's operating units have run

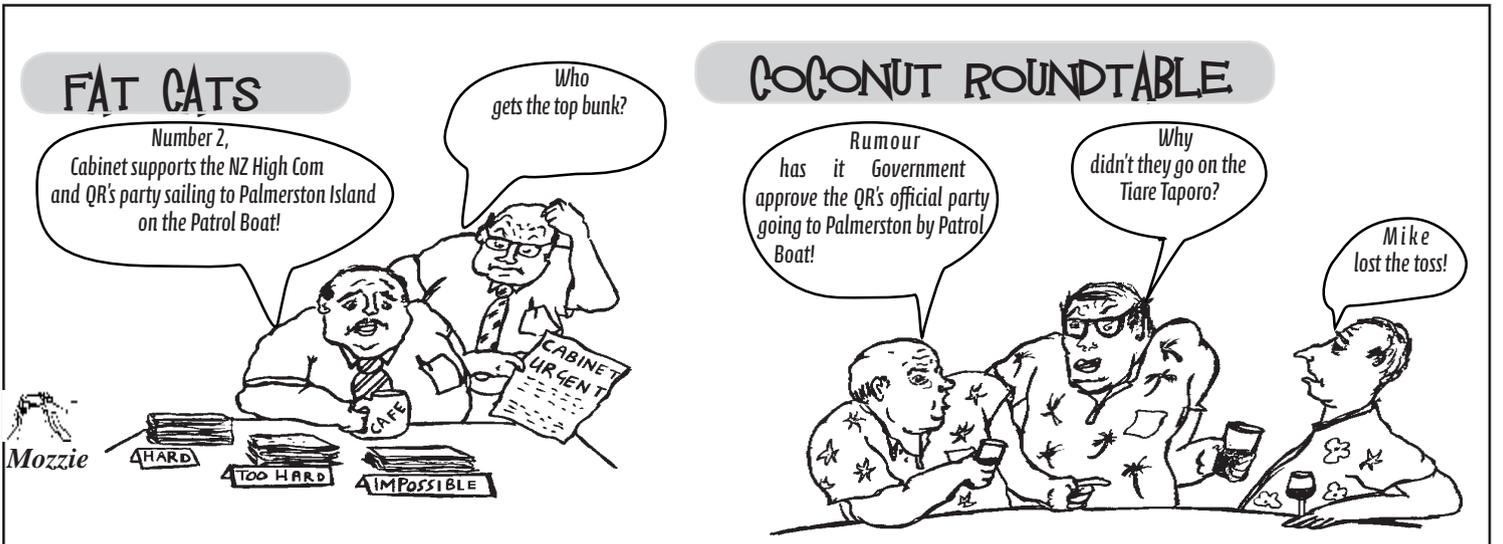
out of coinage of the realm! Bankers have been requested by Royal decree, to fast forward payments to the King's cash box, tout suite, instead of on the normal appointed date of 20th of the month!



After years of shilly shallying, government has finally decided to get around to setting things in place to enable it to do a household survey to determine disposable household income which was last done yonks ago. To assist, government has flown in yet another overseas expert! It's a constant reminder we lack the basic brain power locally to do this job. As a poor, under privileged developing nation, our brightest stars are still swinging from the trees, chomping on bananas. The first embarrassing thing this survey will reveal is what government already knows and that is, households have no disposable income after essential bills have been paid. Look to government to attempt yet another cover-up.



A local Journalist moans that a request for the number of days the PM has spent travelling went to the Clerk of the House who then advised the Journo to submit it in writing under the Official Information Act and that the request would then be forwarded to the PM's Office! What's so secret and commercially sensitive about this information? Last time the details were released, Finance Minister Brown Marks gave the Parliament staff a tongue bashing because one trip cost \$68,000. Perhaps the Journo should ask for info on how many hours the PM spent in the air considering some long distance flights took more than 8 hours.



Appeal of former Flame Tree lessees v Landowners of Flame Tree Nukupure 3D1 & 3D3

By Noeline Browne

The former lessee of the Flame Tree restaurant is seeking leave to appeal a decision by the Land Court which upheld the right of owners on which his business was situated to have first right of refusal. In the event, the Flame Tree lease was sold to NZ buyers, but the car park lease was bought back by one of the landowners, which together comprised the full asking price of \$300,000.

The former lessee has returned to NZ and has no other business interests in the Cook Islands, but still wishes to proceed with the appeal because of issues of 'public importance' according to his legal counsel Tina Browne. The appeal was brought after an 'application for declaratory orders' was dismissed by Justice Savage on October 2014, but no reasons had been provided, 'making it difficult to structure an appeal' according to counsel.

The appeal is to seek a 'definitive statement of the law' in order to provide 'the wider Cook Islands business community with certainty' on two issues raised. The Court of Appeal said there is an undoubted right of appeal on issues of importance.

Implications for leases in Cook Islands - Who is funding the appeal?

Brian Mason opposed the

application and appeared for owners of Nukupure 3D1. When introducing himself, Brian Mason said that the case would have implications for leases in Cook Islands but that his clients were the lessors on the sold property and would derive no benefit from having to defend an appeal in a matter where the appellant has already sold the lease to the new purchasers. The appellate court acknowledged that there were legal issues of great importance to be addressed and it is 'not impermissible for us to grant leave...to make submissions on the legal issues...[or] unless the court appoints an Amicus' to assist. Tere Carr also opposed the application and appeared on her own behalf as one of the landowners of 3D3, which lease was bought back by an owner.

The issues raised by the Application

Firstly, the application of section 106A of the Property Law Amendment Act 1995-96, in particular to the obligation of a lessee to pay a percentage of net sale proceeds to the lessor [landowners]. The second relates to provisions to require the lessee to give the lessor the opportunity to purchase on the same terms and conditions as offered by a purchaser.

There appears to be a third issue about circumstances

where a business is on more than one lease and 'a lessee is obligated to split the transaction into one or more parts, and each 'lessor is offered a right of first refusal'. The Rarotongan Beach Resort and Spa was given as an example of a business located on several different leases. Counsel said the Law Society had written to the Government on the same question, but owing to political reasons, had not responded. She then retracted and said she had no idea why there had been no response.

Who is funding the Application?

Brian Mason questioned the motives of the applicant who had to sell under circumstances that would suggest he may be impecunious, so how then was the appeal to be funded? Such funding arrangements are required to be disclosed to the court. Tina Browne was coy on that issue and said the appellant is funding the case but admitted that several parties were interested in providing funds as well. She named Pacific Resort as one of those parties, but said they had not indicated what sum they were prepared to provide.

Original sale price included a Yacht

According to opposing submissions by Tere Carr, the sale and purchase of the Nukupure property [Flame Tree]

was on two separate leases with separate owners. One was sold to a new lessee, and the other bought back by a landowner. The original offer in the sale price included a yacht said to be worth \$230,000 and \$70,000 in cash. It was to be sold as a 'package deal' but after a challenge on the basis of the right of first refusal to landowners, the deal had to be sold in two different parcels. But after a court challenge, Justice Savage ruled in favour of the landowners on the question of right of first refusal. The two leases were sold and achieved the full asking price of \$300,000. With 'no remaining interest' in the matter, the applicant will have 'no interest in the outcome of the appeal.'

The Appeal Court said the application stands adjourned, pending a request to Justice Savage to provide reasons for declining the Declaratory Judgement by 1 February 2016. Then a telephone conference will be held to discuss special leave, set timetables etc. A request will also be forwarded to the Law Society to see if they could volunteer to provide 'pro bono' an Amicus to assist the court. The question of the funding arrangements for the case will be an agenda item.

The appellate court judges are Sir Ian Barker JA, David Williams JA and Mr Patterson JA.

Miss Tonga proud to represent the Kingdom of Tonga

Miss Tonga was the first contestant to be confirmed for the Miss Pacific Islands competition, after the national pageant in Tonga - Miss Heilala, in July. However as the competition draws near, fans and followers of the cultural pageant are reminded of who exactly is vying for the opportunity to be Miss Pacific Islands 2015.

Miss Brittne Mahealani Tupouvakatapule Fuimaono is 21 years old and is representing the Kingdom of Tonga at the Miss Pacific Islands this year. Living in Hawai'i, Miss Tonga is of Tongan

and Samoan heritage, and her proud parents are Peter and Daphne Fuimaono.

Brittne has 2 sisters and 3 brothers.

Miss Tonga is the co-owner of KeMaHani Fashion in Honolulu, Hawai'i and has been a professional entertainer for the past 10 years, travelling to the Mainland USA, Western Samoa, Japan, and China.

Brittne has been granted scholarships for Argosy University in Hawai'i and also Hawai'i Pacific University pursuant to majoring in the field of medicine and desires to

become a registered nurse.

In her spare time Brittne likes to hike, dance, wrestle and swim. She loves to do community service, roadshow plays, travelling, trying new things and eating. She is a brown belt judo fighter and came second place in the State of Hawai'i judo championship in 2012. Brittne teaches 7 year old primary children and she loves it. Her goal is to complete a full time mission for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the near future.

Brittne is currently carrying out her first project dedicated to the



youth of Tonga. She is currently collecting funds, school supplies and thousands of books to build Tonga's first public library.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is being sourced on a Women's Committee known as the Au Vaine from 1926 to the 1940s.

"The Rarotongan *Au Vaine*, or women's committees, were an officially recognised active organisation from 1926 to the mid 1940s. A silver "Au Vaine Cup" was commissioned by the Resident Commissioner in 1928 and awarded to the village with the most overall points in the annual tutaka.

We would like ask the general public that may have any information as what happened to this cup, or why the *Au Vaine* seem to have been disbanded after World War II.

If anyone has information about the *Au Vaine *or the Au Vaine Cup, please contact

Queen Pa on email: ariki.merepa@gmail.com

or Hannah Cutting Jones on email: hannahcuttingjones@gmail.com

Local contact: Chantal Napa Ph: 27057 Mob: 77058

Meitaki Maata

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Government of the Cook Islands

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
DESIGN SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation is seeking registrations from local businesses / individuals with a technical design background, to provide support services when required for the following projects:

1. Tereora College Rebuild project
2. Apii Nikao Rebuild project
3. Vaikapuangi redevelopment project

Expertise will, from time to time, be required in the following areas:

- Architecture and design
- CAD technicians (ArchiCad)
- Quantity surveying
- Civil Engineering (Geotechnical, Environmental, structural, 3-waters)
- Services Engineering (Fire & safety, ICT, Electrical, Plumbing)

Please register your services by completing an Application Form.

Structural Assessments using Non-Destructive Testing equipment
Structural assessments, using NDT equipment, are required immediately for a number of government properties on Rarotonga. NDTs are used world-wide for determining the cause and depth of cracks, concrete cover, and the location and sizing of rebars. Four (4) Government properties need to be assessed in the next two months. Intermittent assessments will be required for upcoming new construction projects, and for future structural reporting.

This is an opportunity for our local engineering experts to expand their services to include NDTs – (currently not available locally). If you intend to venture into NDT assessments, please register your interest by completing an Application Form.

The Application Forms for the above are available from www.ciiconline.com/advertisements/ or by emailing: eusenio.fatialofa@cookislands.gov.ck

Application submissions end at 4pm, Wednesday 25 November 2015.

For further details please contact Eusenio Fatialofa, phone 29391 or by email (as above).

Welcome Miss Fiji!

Miss Fiji is the talented and beautiful Zaira Begg, who hails from the town of Ba in the western division of Fiji. Miss Fiji is the first to represent both major races in Fiji as she is of both Itaukei (indigenous Fijian) and Indian descent.



Zaira works for Fiji's foremost dance company VOU as she is a professional dancer and model with passions centred on cultural dance, fashion modelling and acting.

Miss Begg is the first ever Miss Fiji to win a nationwide pageant and the chance to represent all towns and provinces across her home country. The 21 year old competed with 9 other contestants representing towns and cities across Fiji, to be the first to truly represent all of Fiji. In the past, Miss Fiji contestants came from the

capital city festival to compete at Miss Pacific Islands.

Miss Fiji can expect to receive extra visual and vocal support from the Fijian community here on Rarotonga while competing at the cultural pageant in early December. Fiji is a rising star in regional pageant circles with 2 winners at Miss Pacific Islands in the last 5 years.

VACANCIES



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Requirements:

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

This week's top vacancies from Cook Islands Jobs

- Knickers in a Twis/Coco Boutiquet- Retail Assistant, Rarotonga
- Oasis Hydroponics- Farm Manager, Rarotonga
- Ka Pie- Cook/Kitchen Hand, Rarotonga
- Ikurangi Ltd, Housekeeper/Gardener, Rarotonga

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

FOOTBALL UPDATE

OFC Champions League draw reveals all

The 12 teams taking part in the OFC's premier international club competition now know their opponents following the official draw for the 2016 OFC Champions League which was live streamed out of Auckland, New Zealand this afternoon.

For the third year straight Vanuatu's domestic champions Amicale FC will face off with the competition's defending champions Auckland City FC in the group stage of the competition which will be held in Auckland and Wellington from 8-23 April, 2016.

Joining the two sides in Group A will be Papua New Guinea club Lae City Dwellers, a side making their regional debut, as well as the yet-to-be-determined Solomon Islands S-League winners.

Auckland City FC coach Ramon Tribulietx witnessed the draw live, sharing a smile with captain Ivan Vicelich after learning their team would once again be taking on Amicale FC, a side they met twice in 2014 including the home-and-away final, and again in 2015.

"We are playing Amicale again, we've played them quite a few times in the past few years and that means we know them pretty well."

Having once again been drawn against the Solomon Islands champions, Tribulietx says the group has turned out fairly similar to this year's, with the addition of a Papua New Guinea side.

"We will have to do the proper scouting on these teams," he says, "we need to



OFC Champions League draw host Mark Watson (R) gets Team Wellington midfielder Alex Federidis' reaction to the draw results. Credit: OFC via Phototek

try and get footage of all the teams, the first team we will play especially.

"With the second and third team we can watch them during the tournament but we will try and collect as much footage as we can. We know the style the Solomon Islands champs will play and even with PNG we have an idea.

"We know the style of football these nations play and we just have to tick all the boxes going into the competition."

Group B will feature the 2016 OFC Champions League's second host and 2015 runners-up Team Wellington.

Midfielder Alex Feneridis made the trip to witness the draw in which he saw his side drawn alongside Hekari United of Papua New Guinea, Suva FA of Fiji and New Caledonia club AS Lossi.

For the second year in-a-row, Team Wellington will face 2010 champions Hekari

United, with the hosts hoping they can once again topple their opponent after securing a 2-0 victory in 2015.

The final group consists of Fiji club champions Nadi FC and AS Magenta of New Caledonia, both sides making a return after sitting out the previous edition, as well as AS Tefana and the OFC Champions League Preliminary winner.

Preceding the 2016 OFC Champions League draw was the draw for the preliminary competition which will be held in Cook Islands from 26-30 January.

Opening the action at the Cook Islands Football Association Complex in Matavera will be an intriguing encounter between 2014 OFC Champions League Preliminary winners Kiwi FC of Samoa and American Samoa club champions Utulei Youth FC.

Tonga champions Veitongo FC, who have ousted long-time domestic champions and three-time

preliminary participants Lotoha'apai United, will open their campaign against Cook Islands club Tupapa Mararenga FC who are set to make their regional return.

2016 OFC Champions League Draw Results

Group A

- Auckland City FC (NZL)
- Amicale FC (VAN)
- Lae City Dwellers (PNG)
- Solomon Islands club champions (SOL)

Group B

- Team Wellington (NZL)
- Hekari United (PNG)
- Suva FA (FIJ)
- AS Lossi (NCL)

Group C

- Nadi FC (FIJ)
- AS Magenta (NCL)
- AS Tefana (TAH)
- OFC Champions League Preliminary winner (TBC)

2016 OFC Champions League Preliminary Tournament

1. Utulei Youth FC (ASA)
2. Kiwi FC (SAM)
3. Veitongo FC (TGA)
4. Tupapa Maraerenga (COK)