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# Demos promoting another false hope says Brown

In the absence of our widely travelled Prime Minister Henry Puna, the Minister of Finance Mark Brown has been in the firing line of a continuous barrage of criticism levelled at the Cook Islands Party Government. Knocked about but not knocked out Brown has fronted the media and held his ground in defending the various issues of public concern. This week Brown has cast a shadow over the scaremongering tactics the Opposition has engaged in their efforts to destabilise the government.

Talk of filing a judicial review on government's alleged unlawful expenditure is just a diversion from the very issues of internal strife within the Demo camp to cover for their weak ineffective leadership said Brown. Brown refuted he or his colleagues were concerned about the hyped talk coming from the Demo camp about the judicial reviews they are proposing.

Brown pointed out, just when the political stakes were at boiling point the Demos start shooting themselves in the feet, in one week the Demo Leader is instrumental in dumping three MPs from the collective opposition. "Being self destructing hardly breeds public confidence they have stability in their own ranks," said Brown.

"As bad as what the media makes us out to be it will take more than that to convince the voting public the Demos would make a credible government, in their current form they are only a threat to themselves," assessed Brown.

Brown said he was satisfied the management of the country's finances under his watch are within the frame work of the law. "It comes down to one's interpretation of the laws that are appropriate to the national

budget and if there are areas that are in question then they are easily remedied," clarified Brown. "We were given the mandate to govern and that's what we are doing in a responsible way."

The demos' fantasy that they should be the government is very irresponsible according to Brown. "Ever since they lost the snap election they have been harping on about being the government and in every instance they have created a false hope in their supporters and these talked about judicial reviews are just that, another false hope that will just waste money and people's time."

It's not the first time expenditure has had to be validated and if that is required we will do so in Parliament before the end of this year stated Brown, "We have the numbers to pass any motions we table in the House."

"Filing judicial reviews will only serve to divert the Court's attention away from the priority issues of the Ministry of Justice and cause delays in their normal programmed schedule."

Added to this desperate clutch at a dream beyond their reach Brown is also concerned the Demos are creating more debt for their supporters. "They can't manage their money and they want to be in charge of the country's money, how silly is that?" asked Brown. "They think the solution to their huge debt is to become the government."

Brown says the country's finances are in good hands and there is no economic crisis to be concerned about, "There has been a huge commitment by the government to fast track many of the projects that were continuously deferred by the previous Democratic Party government, not only is this evident on Rarotonga but more so in the outer islands," claimed Brown.

The outer islands have been badly ignored by previous Demo governments; that's why they have been rejected at the polls chipped in CIP Vice President Taoro Brown. Talk of being forced to go back to the polls by the Demos would only reinforce and strengthen the position of the CIP according to VP Brown.

VP Brown said Team CIP had done a comprehensive review and an

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# Our Muri needs innovation and tough love

Our Muri Lagoon Environment and potentially our entire Tourism Industry is now in jeopardy. The Government have acted and we look back to see what locals ask for and what is trying to be 'done' which begs the question, "WHY are the locals concerns or options neglected, discriminated, and rejected on this 20 year old plus issue"?

Many times in the past with 'boomerang' aid (lions-share of money paid back to donors) or excessive priced projects backed by 'taxpayers' debt

over our people and our future generations, we see repeated 'cut and paste systems' from overseas resulting in failures. Why aren't performance based contracts signed? Who holds them to account? Why can't our people make decisions, plan, develop and maintain systems we know are far superior and effective to these Travel In Travel Out Individuals (T.I.T.O.I.s)? At least one bonus is 'locals' are normally still on the beach to fix any break downs. Are our people and nation being signed away by incompetence to exploitation? Look at our past Sheraton-gate

and all the other 'gates'. TMV, Purse Seining Ban and now our Muri Lagoon. Will this behaviour and attitude ever change? Tens of millions of dollars into project failures and add our country's 'bankruptcy' and mass sacking of nearly 2000 workers in the past.

Innovative local minds along with immediate long-term robust solutions are needed. The adherence to 'traditional knowledge' not bureaucrats and T.I.T.O.I.s. Their endless reports, their mass payouts, discrimination, neglect of locals and promotion of 'exploitation'

outcomes. What good is it if we gain the world (money) only to lose our 'homes'(environment) and people? I'm sure we know where this wise statement is derived from?

Locals are not trying to be 'know it alls'. Most are just sick to death of all these project disasters. The days of 'cut and paste' models from a non-tropical small town based inland system must be scrutinised thoroughly! Not simply "yes SIR"("Ae tano taau"). There is a massive difference! Yes, we can

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*The outer islands have been badly ignored by previous Demo governments; that's why they have been rejected at the polls chipped in CIP Vice President Taoro Brown. Talk of being forced to go back to the polls by the Demos would only reinforce and strengthen the position of the CIP according to VP Brown.*

analysis of the 2014 Elections and claims they know why and how they won and why the Demos lost.

On the question of the numerous public scrutiny and protests confronting the government Minister Brown's response was this is the evidence we have a robust democracy and the poor state the Opposition is in, "If the Opposition were doing their job the people wouldn't have to do it for them."

RAPPA Member of Parliament the recently expelled Albert

Nicholas was quick to realise the Demos had unrealistic ambitions about being government and was politically astute in taking ownership of his personal political destiny said Brown who was the catalyst in Nicholas moving to the CIP.

Brown predicts the intended judiciary reviews border on being frivolous and will not have the desired impact. "The failure of the judiciary review will be the last straw for the Demos and it will leave them demoralised and aimless." - George Pitt



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It's sensible to take precautions to lessen the effects of any cyclones that may come your way this season.

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state fancy terms like all the micro-nutrients scientific names and pathogens like the T.I.T.O.I.s. However where are all these T.I.T.O.I.s now?

These new septic systems installed by WATSAN are failures! Why, because they still allow nitrates to flow into the land and eventually into the lagoon. Go on their websites and see for yourselves. With Septic Systems there can be 3 basic treatments. To keep it simple there is a primary (physical) treatment, the secondary (biological) treatment and finally Tertiary (chemical) treatment. We can eliminate the chemical treatment if we use appropriate plant and trees or discharge directly and carefully into the ocean, however this will require mass amounts of sample data and testing. After chemical treatment water can be re-used as secondary water (non-consumable). Similar to what we see in parts of Australia, however there is massive set up and maintenance costs involved.

Will our locals ever be heard and ultimately actioned? Apart from others concerns raised recently with remedies. Firstly, the removing of the Traditional fish trap (aria pa). This whole area is under 'RAUI' so you can't take fish. It no longer serves its purpose! It stops natural tidal flow and does not allow flushing of the Muri Lagoon. This is more apparent when we have strong low tides which have happened for more than ten years.

Secondly, The taro vai must flow and crops planted! So simple, no stagnant water that promotes breeding areas for mosquitos and also the build-up of weeds that when they flood are dumped on mass in our Lagoon. Taro and other trees and plants extracts nutrients. Was doing this back in Aitutaki in my school days. The photos recently in Cook Islands News show photos taken by a drone of weed growth after heavy rains. Who can clean and plant these areas? School kids, Landowners and family, Prisoners, Working Bees to various sports groups and Tourists who want to understand our traditions. Can all be done in the next 6 months and at very little cost. Planting of trees and plants should happen now throughout the entire Muri area.

Thirdly add sea cucumbers (rori) back into the lagoon. These



Aerial shot of Muri Lagoon. The darker areas show the bloom of algae in the lagoon.

are natural filters of lagoon water. I'm sure there are other measures that can be utilised with similar results.

Fourthly to cater for these days of extreme low tides where the Lagoon looks like an 'uncut paddock' a channel to be dug from the old fish trap site right up to Taakoka motu of about 2ft deep and 8ft wide. This will back fill over time and can always be reassessed every 12 months. It has been the case of the passage in Aitutaki and the Avarua Harbour where sand will naturally refill over time. Excessive dredging contaminates the lagoon.

Fourth, Using Scientific data modelling. This is self-marketing and based on proven systems which must allow testing and measuring to cater for a worst case scenario. The system must be inclusive of maintenance and RISKS. If it cannot achieve the intended goal or the system fails then back to the drawing board. Not sign the agreements to close the excessive financing package and then make something up to try to 'bamboozle' our people. These are never presented at stakeholder meetings and also in Maori to allow our 'iti tangata' to make informed decisions, not Done Deals.

Fifth, Composting toilets and water reducing urinals usage, this fast tracks our tourism

model going 'Eco friendly'. Separation of black (septic) and grey water must be compulsory for all developments in that area.

Lastly which I believe is most important long-term. This is based on the model 'Mahota' farm in China along with other proven methods globally. The sedimentary ponds method is not efficient here due to land issues and smell. There can be a solution. The building of Tanks, using 'anaerobic' methods (just ask Eric Short or papa Sam Napa) and sunlight to dry the solids into 'Humus' dried animal or human waste known as 'organic fertiliser'. Crown Lands exist to make this happen, however respect to inform Landowners and the Aronga mana and ask for their support! Pumps and pump trucks may be an issue but with added help from volunteer fire trucks on the Island, they can be suffice for the time being, to allow extraction of solid waste and allow inspections of existing tanks and further prevention of nitrates and leakage. Personally, two chamber with isolated overflow should be appropriate for domestic use and commercial use must be re-assessed. Testing and measuring must happen and reviews must be built into law. All of this could happen pretty quickly with a limited budget.

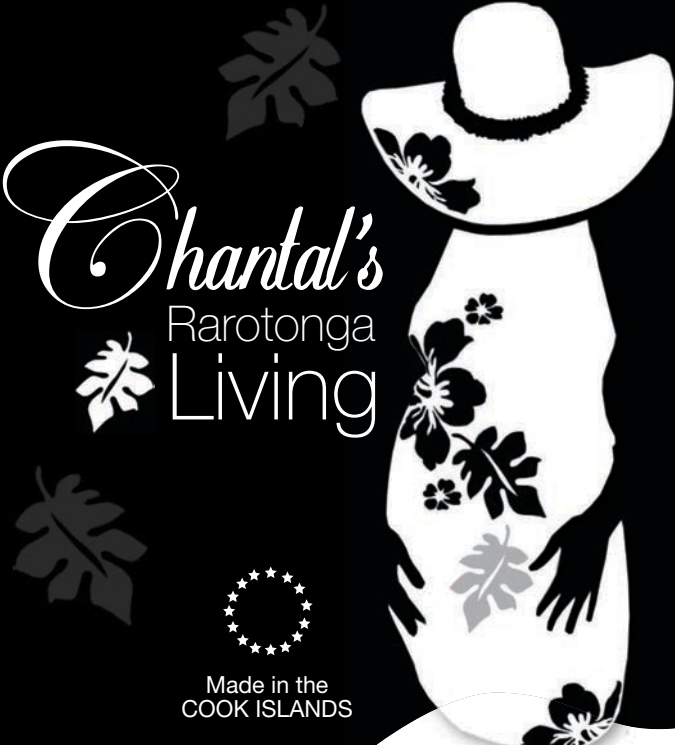
If tourism population continues to grow at the present

rate, catastrophic environmental effects are inevitable. Not everyone benefits directly from the tourism sector. Who has to wear that, our future generations! If the decision makers of the day are all talk no action, 'pay-packets' and 'kick-backs' first before our people and nation then it just goes to show their true colours! Admiration to our DPM trying to hold the fort and take the 'heat' which in most cases has reached boiling point on his watch. The simplest solution is to heed the advice of the locals and in most cases it is our Customary Traditional and Ancestral Knowledge and back them to deliver results.

Stripping of costs from the Executive Committee 'budget' is too easy! Here are just a few, STOP further septic tank installations and recoup money. Change the law to ensure T.I.T.O.I.s who have exploited the 'tax payers' trough and have failed to achieve any significant returns to our people are locked down with performance based contracts. Tourism please STOP those ineffective local promotions. Go to your repeat customer database and save millions on 'wishful' marketing. That can save a few million dollars now let's get out there and save our environment today for our future generations.

*James Thomson, Matavera, Takitumu.*





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# Our problems cannot be over-simplified

By Norman Goerge

Why is pollution, an environmental affliction, converted to a national disaster!? Why is the Muri Lagoon seaweed and sewage problem suddenly upgraded to a national disaster by DPM Teariki Heather? Is it simply to snatch the \$800,000.00 budget allocated for cyclones, while we are in the thick of the cyclone season? Tut! Tut! Not another Avatea/Nikao Primary school demolition blunder I hope!

National disasters are classified as major life threatening calamities involving public safety property damages and imposing social and economic ruin. We are not over simplifying the Muri lagoon problems. The problem has been building up for many years and it is not completely unexpected. This problem is not confined to the present government only. We all knew about this for the past 20 years.

The clear message is, let's face it with greater intensity, focused attention and start the clock ticking on ways to tackle the problem head-on now! No panic, no rush. Inhale and exhale and think clearly before the next move. Yes DPM, make the first move, but leave the National Disaster Funds for national disasters alone!

The Muri lagoon problem is huge, it is time to take note of what people are saying like John Scott. A national project should be put together quickly, calmly and with no short cuts, band aid solutions DPM.

The blame game should be shut down. Let us all accept the blame at national level. We are sometimes better at dividing than uniting. Only when we as a nation accept that what is happening in the Muri lagoon and elsewhere around Rarotonga is the price of economic and population growth, which our past and present governments have neglected to address. Now let's get to work to solve this problem.

## THE LAND GRAB SCHEME

Beware of the activities of Te Mato Vai. Public Servant Cook Islanders have a way of extracting consent from landowners without the land owners realizing that they are being ripped off!

The charm show begins with

sacrifices needed for a noble cause, the high moral grounds, the everlasting gratitude of the succeeding generations. Every possible non-financial reward and gratuity is mentioned except monetary compensation for the use of land. In other words, landowners end up being charmed into giving consent without compensation. I consider this false, devious and fraudulent.

Why I am saying this is because the law is in place to provide compensation for land taken by warrant or proclamation under Section 357 of the Cook Islands Act 1915. Compensation for land taken can be found under Section 359 of the Cook Islands Act 1915. Compensation means financial payment, has the landowners of Papaaroa and Kauare been financially compensated for the compulsory seizure of the land to be used for a new road and water pipe access?

No doubt there will be a rushed reply to tell us that the landowners have donated the land for free!! There will be those pounding their chests with victory.

I attended one of the Te Mato Vai land-owners consultation meetings at 9:30am at the Auditorium earlier this year. It was called by the DPM.

By the time that my wife and I arrived at the scheduled time of 9:30am, we discovered that the DPM had started the meeting early at 9:00am. We also found out that all the land owners present had consented to have lands used for the water mains pipes for free.

We were quite stunned and disappointed with the rushed result. I was the only one who raised the compensation issue. I was frowned upon.

I highlighted the provisions of Article 40(1) of the Constitution under the heading-

**NO PROPERTY TO BE TAKEN COMPULSORILY WITHOUT COMPENSATION.**

*40(1) No property shall be taken possession of compulsorily and no right over or interest in any property shall be acquired compulsorily, except under the law, which of itself or when read with any other law-*

*(a) Requires the payment*

*within a reasonable time of adequate compensation thereof and*

*(b) Gives to any person claiming that compensation, a right of access, for the determination of his interest in the property and the amount of compensation to the High Court....*

There were two MPs at the meeting. It would appear they were at the front of the start-line to give away land owners rights to compensation. In answer to my question, one of them said to me, the land owners have all agreed to give their consent for the pipes and roads to go over their land.

I then asked her, *"Did the land owners give INFORMED consent?"* When I noticed her confused looks I said to her, *"Were they offered the choice of consent with compensation, or consent without compensation?"*

Another blank look confirmed my worst suspicion, they were not given the choice! Aue taue!

Those elected to represent the people should know the rules in relation to land acquisition by the government. To act in the best interests of the land owners living in the electorate, they should be offered compensation! Not surrender their land without compensation!

Some MPs unfortunately are only interested in claiming the credit in having new roads opened and water pipes laid in their electorate. A hollow victory, as big as the holes in the new pipes!

The lesson from this is that most land owners are people with limited means, they completely missed out to get any form of compensation for the surrender of their land.

One sparkly public servant rushed up to me at the meeting and said, they are only digging holes and burying the pipes underneath the land. Then the land owners can still use their land. I asked this "Sunshine" what if the land owner wishes to build on top of the buried pipes? Can the land owner do that?

Master "Sunshine" replied "No he can't, he is barred from building over the top of the buried pipes.

Now let's get back to base ground level. Can someone tell me why did Te Mato Vai and the Ministry of Works plan this water project without a budget for land acquisition? This is neneva, kamakura, Matapo work by simpletons who should be fired! (*translation: those insane, backward, blind simpletons*)

They budgeted for the contractors alright. Everyone else was financially taken care of except where the project is going to be laid and implemented, on other people's land!

How can a project be planned with the expectation of free donated land? Get real people! This is a new era, finance for land must be first and foremost in all Government Projects!

Look at the difference with the Manihiki Northern Group Land acquisition. The government even pays out before the land owners can be established! Compensation for some, even if not confirmed and nothing for the land owners of Rarotonga? What kind of rotten deal is that!?

Also take note, Te Mato Vai cannot take measurements properly or follow pegs or land owner instructions, as the Makea Nui Family found out in Titikaveka. They take land more than they are entitled to! In Vaimaanga my son lost 30% of his occupation right by Te Mato Vai Bulldozers cutting into his section, contrary to land owner instructions. Apparently we will have a day in court over this in the future, or shall we say a date in Court? Rest assured nothing is over until Lady Justice sings.

I congratulate the land owners of all the water mains for getting together as a group to make claims for compensation. It is your right and you are absolutely entitled to your claims.

As for those land owners who gave "uninformed consent" to give their land free of charge for the roads and water pipes in Titikaveka, you can change your mind. You did not get proper advice, in fact you were tricked, misinformed and unduly influenced to give up your rights without compensation. Think again, reconsider and now seek compensation if you wish.....

*Kia Manuia, Ka Kite!*





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# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 25th Nov 2015

## Why CIIC want the Esther Honey place back

Tamāri'i Tūtangata, Chief Executive Officer of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC), was the quest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

Tūtangata responded to an invitation to come on Te Kave Kōrero to answer questions in relation to Government's intention of evicting the Esther Honey Foundation from its rental premises in Nika'o.

The interview in Māori is transcribed below for Cook Islands Herald readers to follow.

"I tēia ngā rā, i tēia epetoma i topa ake nei, mārama tātou i tēia e nā roto nei i ta tātou nūtipēpa, nā runga nei i ta tātou pi'a tūtū, nā roto i te nūti, nā runga nei i te rātio, tēia manamanatā i rotopū i te Kavamani e tēia putuputuanga ākono manu, ko te Esther Honey Foundation. Inā, e mea tau kia ui atu au ki a koe e Pāpā Tamāri'i, eā'a te tumu te Kavamani, e inangaro nei te Kavamani ē, kia ākaātea'ia tēia putuputu'anga mei roto i tēia ngutu'are o rātou i Nika'o?"

"Kia orāna e te katoatoa. Te tumu maata no te mea oki, e ngāi nooanga ti rēira no te tangata, kua mārama tātou i te ngāi e tāangaanga nei te Esther Honey Foundation no ta rātou vet service, no te rapakau i te maki aere o te puakāoa, te eaa nei tēra, eaa nei ta tātou tuatua, tataa, tataa aere i te puakāoa, te au manu aere mei te kiorengiāo. I rotopū te rēira i a Pokoinu, e are tētai i te pae mai i te matāra, e are tētai i te pae mai, kāre e tangata e inangaro ana i te noo ki roto, e residential, e ngāi nooanga no te tangata, kāre oki i rēira i te ngāi tau no te rēira tūtū angaanga. Mei mua mai to rātou, kua roa oki te Esther Honey Foundation, kāre oki e mei te mea te karanga atu nei te CIIC, to mātou Board e, kāre e puapinga te angaanga a te Foundation, no te aa, kua kite pouroa tātou i te puapinga i ta rātou angaanga e rave nei.

"Eaa te roa i a rātou i roto i tēia ngutuare e Pāpā Tamāri'i?"

"I roto i tēra ngutu'are, te āere nei ki te varu mata'iti. E toru pa'a o rātou taime i te neke'anga'ia, mei ta rātou oki e karangā ra i roto i te nūtipēpa, te āere nei pa'a ki te rua nga'uru mata'iti rātou i te Kūki Airani nei".

"Inā, i roto i rēira i tēia varu mata'iti, i na'ea i rēira i tupu mai ai tēnā manako ē,

kāre rātou i tau i roto i tēia ārea?"

"Mei mua mai. To rātou tāmata'anga i konei, ānga'anga rātou ki roto i te āre o tēta'i tangata, private residence. I roto i te rēira, kāre au i kite eā'a te roa i to rātou no'o'anga ki roto i tēra are mua, inā, kua inangaro te au land owners i to rātou āre kia āka'oki'ia ki a rātou, inā kua neke rātou. I tēra tuātau oki, ākama'ara tātou, e rua nga'uru mata'iti i topa ake nei. Te rēira tuātau, te irinaki'anga oki o te iti tangata, nā te Agriculture tēra tūtū ānga'anga tata'a manu āere, e rave ana rāi oki te Agriculture i te rēira taime i te rēira tūtū ānga'anga. No rēira, i te taime mua i te neke'anga rātou, kua ōronga te Agriculture i tētai ngā'i no rātou i Totoko'itu. Inā, kua kite'ia i te rēira tuātau, e poto rāi oki te taime ka toe no te lease o te rēira ngā'i no te Agriculture, inā, i te pou'anga te lease, kua neke rātou ki tēta'i āre o tēta'i tangata, kāre i manatā na, e oti, oti te rēira tuātau, kua inangaro te landowners i to rātou enua kia āka'oki āka'ou mai e to rātou āre, kua neke āka'ou. Kua tangi tēta'i tangata ānga'anga i roto i te CIIC i a rātou, put them, i tōku manako no te rēira taime, that's about, ka āere mai pa'a mei te varu mata'iti i tēia taime, kua ākanekē mai i rēira i a rātou ki roto i te rēira ngā'i, i Poko'inu. Ko te mea, kāre rā oki i ākatinamou'ia na to rātou no'o'anga ki rēira i te mea oki ē, kāre e rental agreement i sign ia ana i te rēira tuātau".

"Te karanga nei koe i rēira i tēia āti'anga ē, e no'o nei i tēia rā, kāre e kōreromotu tārau'anga, kāre e kōreromotu e no'o nei?"

"Ae, kāre e kōreromotu mei te rēira tuātau mai".

"Eaa i rēira i riro ei, ei manamanatā i tēia tuātau, e, kāre i manamanatā na mei te rima mata'iti i topa ake nei, varu mata'iti i topa ake nei?"

"E ma'ata te aronga e inangaro nei i te āre. Te inangaro nei oki i rēira to mātou Board i te ākameitaki āere i te au āre āere. I tāmānako ana oki mātou ē, pēnei ake, ka ākaruke ua i te tūranga o te au

āre āere, ki te private sector, ināra, te kite nei mātou i tā mātou waiting list, kāre e iti māi na, te ma'ata atū rā".

"E ia i runga i te waiting list?"

"Kua pāti te toru nga'uru".

"Ko ai mā tēia aronga i runga i te waiting list, kāre e tano ē, e au aronga ānga'anga Kavamani tēia, mē kāre, e au kōpu tangata tēia no te au aronga ānga'anga Kavamani?"

"Kāre, tētai aronga, e au aronga ānga'anga na te Kavamani, tētai aronga, kāre, private sector".

"Ko te tumu rēira tēia i te Kavamani, ko te tumu āinei tēia ta kōtou e anoano nei ē, kia ākaātea tēia putuputu'anga, kia ōronga kōtou i tēia ngutu'are no tēia au kōpu tangata e kimi ngutu'are nei?"

"Ae, e ma'ata te tangata e kimi āre nei".

"Kāre roa au i kite ana e Pāpā Tamāri'i ē, i roto nei i to tātou Bāsileia, ko te tūranga tēia, e au kōpu tangata tēta'i e kimi ngutu'are nei, ka ta'i nei au ka ākarongo atu ai".

"Kua roa, kua roa ta mātou waiting list, no mua ake i tōku tuātau, ka ā e te āpa mata'iti au i kō i te CIIC i tēia taime, no rēira, no mua roa atu tēia waiting list".

Tūtangata stated that there are two main reasons Government wants to move Esther Honey Foundation from its current premises in Nika'o. Firstly, the premises is located in a residential area and having animals in the area is no good. Secondly, the property is required now as there are more than 30 families on CIIC's waiting list waiting for a home to live in.

Te Kave Kōrero appreciates Tūtangata's attendance and responses to the questions put to him with respect to Government's intention of moving the Esther Honey Foundation from its current premises in Nika'o.

# ADVERTISE WITH THE COOK ISLANDS HERALD



## *Congratulations to Akerongo Utanga*

**C**ongratulations to Woman of the Month for December, Louise Akerongo Utanga, who is also known as Ake.

### **Family background**

I am the third child of six being the second eldest daughter and have three brothers and two sisters living in Australia and Mitiaro. I was born on Rarotonga to Tuainekore TangataNekeare (nee Tikitau) and the late Tangata Nekeare (CI First local police commissioner). My mother is of Ngati Makea of Arera, Ngati Makea Vakatini and Ngati Kainuku lineage and my late father was from Ngaputoru of Ngati Nurau, Ngati Tamuera of Mauke, Ngati Rongomatane of Atiu and Tou Ariki and Temaue-o-te-rangi Ariki of Mitiaro, I grew up in the village of Tupapa and Maraerenga and my father passed away when I was 3.

I was brought up by my mother, my grandmother Mama Tai, my two grand aunts Mama Matauri Piri and Mama Mami Avae Kamana, my mother's feeding-mother Mama Ape and my grandfather Papa Vane Manuel-Fortes.

After fifth form, worked to help my mother take care of my younger siblings. Others who cared for us were my late Aunt Matangaro Story and Uncle Boy Story.

Married to Terry Utanga of Ruatonga and have 3 children – Ngaire (NZ working), Teokotai (NZ Work & study) and Ngatupuna (student at Nukutere) and two grandchildren.

### **Hobbies and interests**

Played different sports for Tupapa-Maraerenga Sports Club – netball, tennis, athletics. Still a member of the Netball club having played in the open competition this year. Involvement in church and the community is now a big part of my life. I value and

actively learn my family history and treasure my language, culture and customs. I was involved in the 2015 Te Maeva Nui festival with the Tupapa-Maraerenga Cultural and Performing Arts Team. I enjoy travelling and meeting people of different cultures mainly through the World Youth Day activities of the Catholic faith and have travelled to Europe, the USA and Brazil in 2013. I have also travelled to Malaysia, Indonesia and Fiji (when working for CIFWA) and Tahiti.

### **Education & Work History**

Educated at St Joseph's Primary School then Nukutere College until fifth form. Worked for Cook Islands Trust Corporation Ltd as an office clerk in 1986. Between 1986 and August 1995 I worked for other trust companies – European Pacific Trust Company, Standard Chartered Equitor Trust, Bermuda Trust (Cook Islands Ltd) in a variety of administration roles. I worked for the Ministry of Justice for 4 years as a Companies Clerk and BDM Clerk. This experience has been valuable experience in helping me with my land work and representing clients. From 2003 to 2008 I was involved in the Nono Industry with Pacific Natural Products and then the Kia Orana Natural Products (family business) companies exporting nono juice and pulp to overseas clients as far away as Germany and Japan. This venture ended due to overseas competition. I then worked for the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association as its Program Officer from 2008 to March 2013. This position involved working with NGO's and government agencies as an advocate for the goals of the organisation, which is family planning. Other positions I have held for short periods include shop manager for Annie Bonza Designs

from 2001-2002, office assistant for Moana Gems Ltd. 2002-2003 and the family screen printing business. Currently working part time as an office secretary and undertake land consultancy work.

### **Beliefs /Spirituality**

I have a strong Roman Catholic Christian faith that is a big part of my family as a member of the Avarua Parish and respect other Christian faiths. Also involved in the Ruatonga Tapere CICC Ekalesia activities through my husband.

### **Community/Church/Uniform/Cultural/NGO/Sport organization involvement**

- Member of the St Joseph's Catholic Parish Council, Avarua & 'Mata Tapere' for Ruatonga Tapere, one of six tapere in the parish since 2004
- Sisters of Cluny Associates current member
- Ruatonga Mapu Christian Youth current member
- Past committee member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Youth Group, Avarua
- Past Chairperson of the Tupapa- Maraerenga Catholic Youth Group
- Past member of the Avarua Catholic Young Women's Group
- Treasurer of the Catholic World Youth Day Convention in Sydney, 2008 and Coordinator for WYD 2011 to Madrid, Spain and 2013 to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
- Past Girl Guide Leader of the St Joseph's Girl Guides Company
- St Joseph's PTA Committee Secretary, 2007 and actively support the two schools
- Nukutere College PTA Committee member (current)
- Member of the Tupapa-Maraerenga Cultural Performing Arts team, 2015 Te Maeva Nui festival

- Member of the Avarua Ekalesia Culture Team (1999 to 2006), Te Maeva Nui festival
- Past committee member of the Cook Islands Disabled Society Inc.
- Past board member of the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (2008-2013-Program Officer)
- CI National Council for Women committee member 2010
- Supporter of the Te Tiare Association, Punanga Tauturu, CINCW and CIFWA activities
- Tupapa-Maraerenga Netball Club member
- 2002 Mitiaro Manea Games Committee member & coordinator
- Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay – Volunteer, Rarotonga
- Mitiaro Netball Team Manager for Tarekareka Games 1998 and 2000, Rarotonga.
- Manager/Treasurer of Rarotonga-Mitiaro Women's Rugby 7's team, 1994
- Treasurer of the Tupapa Maraerenga Tennis Club, 1993 and Standard Chartered Women's Basketball Team, 1991
- Assistant Treasurer of the Tupapa Maraerenga Netball Club, 1992

### **Memorable experiences you want to share**

1. First place in the recent muumuu competition and performed in the Te Maeva Nui 50th celebrations.
2. Annie Bonza major fundraising activity for the Mauke Disability Centre, 2001 held at the auditorium – involving the Tupapa-Maraerenga Catholic Youth team
3. Avarua St Joseph's youth fundraising tour to Tahiti to renovate St Joseph school
4. Fundraising to assist with the rebuild of Nukutere College.

## **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 Ulrich Flowers & Auntie Larry –ei Katu
7. Rarotonga Printing- Photo Production
8. Nga Bates – Massage
9. Nga Bates & Donna Fox -Little Red Gallery
10. Auntie 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



# In the life of Rose

*By Teherenui Koteke*

**O**n 9 July last year, Rose Brown a young house wife, mother and business woman pulled off the impossible. She stood for the Teenui-Mapumai constituency in Atiu and beat the sitting member, Norman George, the country's most formidable politician by 71 votes to 59. She then beat off an electoral petition brought by George.

Mrs Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown, in addition to being the Deputy Speaker, also successfully runs a business and is the mother of five children.

On Tuesday morning I spoke to Rose at Super Brown in Tupapa about how she manages to balance her career as a Member of Parliament with the responsibilities of running a household as well as her business.

"How do you cope with the responsibilities that accompany your career, your business and your family?" Rose told me that there are a number of people out there that help her cope with the stress of her responsibilities. She said "Although it can be hard, my family is always there to provide support. Along with them I also have the support of the community.

My constituency plays a big part in my life." Rose told me that with the support of all these people that play big roles in her life she is able to function knowing that they support her. She also shared about how the staff at her two Super Brown outlet stores, one here in Rarotonga and one in Atiu provide excellent help when it comes to the running of her business.

Rose praised her staff saying how great they were in assisting with the running of the stores. Although Rose does come down to help at the stores upon occasion, she says that her staff are primarily responsible for the great work done in her two Super Brown outlet stores.

When it comes to family Rose says she has a really great family that provide a great support system, she says that her five kids are mostly grown and understand that she needs help, Rose says that her eldest children look out for the younger ones and they all help around. Rose describes it as an "all hands on deck" operation, but the support she receives is what helps her cope with all responsibilities in her life.

Of course with one woman doing so many amazing things I had to ask Rose "how do you manage to run your household when you are also running a constituency?" Rose told me that it is all about time management, making sure you do make time for all things in your life and always maintaining a balance. Rose said that "you cannot prioritize one over the other."

However Rose also made it clear that although you need to make time for everything and although you cannot prioritize one over the other her "family is always number one and everything else fits into place." Rose also made it clear that being a Member of Parliament she

*continued next page*





takes a high responsibility for her constituency, even saying "I do think of my constituency as part of my family." Just like she does for her family, Rose attempts to help out her people of Atiu wherever she can, always trying to help and improve where it is needed. Rose says that in order to manage her household and constituency she finds a good balance, this balance is what makes everything run accordingly.

After this I asked Rose about her priorities. "When it comes to your job, business and home lives, what do you prioritize?" Rose shared with me the fact that although her business and her position as a Member of Parliament is important to her, her family must always come first, "we must not ignore our family, family and then everything else."

I asked Rose "before you were a Member of Parliament, what made you want to run?" To this Rose responded with a simple answer saying that she initially did not want to run but it was in fact the committee in Atiu that nominated her. She also said that in response to her nomination she refused to run but eventually rose to the challenge accepting that the people of her constituency wanted a change and she was willing give them one. I questioned Rose as to whether she had any regrets about running and she responded with "at the time I did, campaigning for the election was a lot of hard work and I didn't expect that." But Rose went on to say that she had "a lot of support from the people in my constituency. My people wanted a change and they wanted to see what this change could do. I'm happy that they elected me to represent them." Rose is glad that the people of her constituency trust her with the responsibility to represent them and is eager to see what changes she can make to improve the lives of those who reside within her constituency both now and in the future of her term as Member of Parliament for Atiu.

Lastly I questioned Rose about what the future has in store for Atiu. Atiu has long been seen as the next great tourist destination of the Cook Islands, I asked Rose "what do you think about this?" Rose was overjoyed at the question she responded with

"that is a vision that has been around for a few years, former members of Parliament have had that in mind. This vision would connect Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Atiu. In Atiu there is a lot of potential for growth in tourism, I support this vision 100%, wait no 200%." Rose shared with me her hope in the fact that in addition to bringing more tourists to the island Atiuans may find interest in the tourism industry and decide to move back to their home land. Rose says that "depopulation is a big problem in the outer islands especially in Atiu however getting our infrastructure in place would allow other developments to easily fall in place and hopefully our people will want to come back home." Rose understands that many of her people move because of a lack of opportunities and motivation on Atiu but this tourism vision may provide the motivation they need to return and reside back home in Atiu.



Rose at the official dedication of Atiu's new crusher

## New Katu Kanga series launches on 16 December

Cook Islands Tourism is pleased to present three new episodes of the much anticipated Katu Kanga and is inviting everyone to the first ever free public viewing on Wednesday 16 December, 6pm at the National Auditorium. This is a night not to be missed!

Katu Kanga is a showcase of our destination and highlights the wonders and magic of our islands and people. 3 new episodes have been produced each running 4-5 minutes in duration. These are short films depicting the reasons to Love a Little Paradise. Carrying on from the first Katu Kanga released in June, the stories centre on Teio and Makea – two Cook Islands boys viewing life in the Cook Islands through their eyes. The stories use humour to engage with the audience and help in getting to better understand the unique nuances of our little paradise.

Colourful Cook Islands characters join the mix – and there is surprise and delight

at every turn. Over 100 Cook Islanders have worked in, on, or around this production. The community are calling it as epic as the release of the new Star Wars movie – except better.

The Ministry of Cultural Development and the Business Trade and Investment Board are teaming up with Cook Islands Tourism to present this in true Cook Islands Christmas Spirit – and there will be a night market full of games and activities for the children, with food and drinks available.

Having successfully completed the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) discovery in the first part of this year (phase 1), the Corporation developed a long term brand and communications strategy (phase 2). The last three months has seen the team begin phase three focussing on the delivery of the tools required to bring the strategy to life - digital assets and content ready for global promotions and awareness of

the destination for 2016.

This 12 month project has been long anticipated, and it's time to share it with everyone "what better time to give back to the community then at Christmas, we want all Cook Islanders to be proud of what Katu Kanga presents to the world and support our new brand "Love a little paradise" says the Director of Sales & Marketing Karla Eggelton.

Katu Kanga will be the driving force used to enhance our message of the brand which is centred on the Kia Orana Values – Kia Orana, Mana Tiaki and Meitaki.

This event is a first. Launching a Cook Islands destination brand to the wider community, which is a necessary event to obtain the full buy-in of the country, establish Cook Islands brand ambassadors amongst our community and local businesses through means such as social media. Lastly and most importantly is to instil national pride in our nation as part of the 50th Celebrations.

Cook Islands Herald Issue 795

# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 27th Nov 2015

## Police Commsioner explains criticisms

Ma'ara Tetava, Commissioner of Police was the invited guest on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 27th November 2015.

Tetava was present in response to recent criticisms of the Police, by Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, for the Police's recent failure in allowing a reckless tourist driver to abscond and return to New Zealand without prosecuting her, following a motor vehicle accident causing bodily injury to a local 18 year old teenager.

The interview in Māori is set out below for Cook Islands Herald readers to follow.

"Ka akamata tāua i tēia atiangā e Pāpā Ma'ara, kāre au e ekōkō e, kua akarongo koe e, i tēia Varaire i topa ake nei, kua akakino au, kua akaapa au i te au Akavā no tēia manamanatā i tupu mei te rua epetoma i topa ake nei. Tēnā te karere tāku i tātā ki roto i te pēpa, tēnā tāku i tuku atu ki a koe, mei te mea atū ra oki e Pāpā Ma'ara e, e ture kē to te au tūroto me akaū rātou i tētai tangata i konei, e ture kē to tātou te iti tangata Māori. Te tano nei tēia?"

"Meitaki e Tony, te karangā ra koe e, kua akaapaapā na koe i te Akavā, kāre au i kite e, eaa tikai tāau i akaapa i te Akavā, inārā, ko tāku i tatau i roto i te nūtipēpa, i te mea oki e, kua tātāia ki roto i te nūtipēpa e tēia taeake, e mea tau rāi i rēira kia akaoki atu au i tētai akamāramaanga na roto i te nūtipēpa no runga i tāau i tātā koe. Inārā, akaruke atu tāua i te rēira no te rēira taime i tataia mai ei, ka tuatua tāua no runga i tēia tumuanga manako aau e tāiku mai nei no runga i te au tūroto e aere ua mai nei ki roto i to tātou ipukarea, te maata ua mai nei te nūmero o tēia au taeake e tae mai nei ki konei i a tātou, e, e maata katoa oki te meitaki a rātou e apai mai nei ki to tātou ipukarea".

"Inangaro ua au i te akapāpu ki a tātou te iti tangata, kāre e ture kē o te tūroto mei a tātou. Aiteite ua te ture, kua angaia te ture, no tātou, e rātou, ka tae mai ki to tātou ipukarea. Ko te reira te pauanga. Irinaki au e, ko tēia komakomaanga a au, me kore, kopekopeanga a au, noou oki ia manako. Te vai atū ra te oonuanga tikai o tēia manamanatā i roto i tēia tuatuaanga a tāua ki runga i te rātio i te mea oki e, te kimikimi nei rāi te au Akavā no runga i tēia. Kāre i oti ake tēia manamanatā, e, taukore i reira i aku kia akamārama atu au i te oonuanga tikai no runga i tēia manamanatā, ko te tāravakē mai, i te akaotianga i te turanga o tēia manamanatā, i te

mei oki e, te vai nei rāi tētai au akanoonooanga, pēnei e ka tae ki te apainaiaanga tēia manamanatā ki te Akavaanga. Ko te tuatua i rēira ka tuatuaia ko te riro tēia ei tāmamanatā i te rēira me tae ki te rēira tuātau".

"Meitaki e Pāpā Ma'ara, mei tēia i rēira te tū, me ko te tū oki tēia o te akanoonooanga a te Akavā, me akaū tētai tūroto i tētai tangata, oti, oki te rēira tūroto, oti, kimikimi rāi kōtou, aea atu ai i rēira e rauka au i te iti tangata irinaki, i te tuku i to rātou irinakianga ki roto i te Akavā e, me ka akaū tētai tūroto i tētai taeake Kūki Airani o tātou, ka tāpekaia te rēira tūroto, ka tū a ia ki mua i te Akavāanga, i mua ake a ia ka oki ai ki tōna Bāsileia. I tēia manamanatā tāku i tātā ki roto i te pēpa, kua oki tēia tūroto, kāre a ia i tāpekaia na, e, ko te akateretereanga ainei tēia a te au Akavā i rēira ē, kāre e oti vave ta rātou kimikimianga, kia oki roa te tūroto, ei rēira e oti ai i te irinaki e, ka rave meitaki kōtou i ta kōtou tuanga angaanga me ko te tū tēia?"

"Ok, no runga i tēia e Tony, ko tēia manamanatā mei tāku e tāikū ra i nakoanei, e mea taukore i aku i te, te maata nei te au akanoonooanga no runga i tēia manamanatā, e mea taukore rā oki i aku kia akakite atu ki a koe, me kore, ki to tātaou iti tangata e akarongorongo mai nei, no te mea, kua tāpekaia tōku rima i tēia taime, kāre oki tēia manamanatā i oti ake, mei tāku e tāiku atū ra, me ka apaina tēia manamanatā ki te Akavāanga, e tau ei e, nā te Akavaanga rāi e akarongo i te au araara no runga i tēia manamanatā, nāna e ōronga mai i te tukūanga tika. No runga rā i tēia tūroto, no runga i te angaanga a te Akavā, mei tāku e tāikū ra i nakoanei, kāre e tūkē...".

"Pēnei oki e Pāpā Ma'ara e, eaa i rēira te puapinga me ka apai kōtou i tēia manamanatā ki te Akava'anga me kua oki takere tēia tūroto?"

"Aria, no rēira oki au i karanga ai i nakoanei e, auraka tātou, te karanga nei au i tēia taime ē, auraka tātou e rererere ki te akaotianga o tēia manamanatā, kāre koe i kite i te oonuanga tikai o tēia manamanatā, i te mea, te tāikū ra koe i tēia tangata i nakoanei e, e tūroto, kāre tēia i te tūroto. Ko tēia tamāine i ū, kua noo a ia ki tētai tamaiti Kūki Airani tikai, kua akaipoipo rāua, kāre i rēira a ia i te tūroto, ko tētai ngāi tūkai oki tēia i a tātou, kua rere ua tātou i

te akakino, mē kore, i te araara i ta tātou i manako, kāre tātou i kite i te oonuanga tikai o tēia manamanatā, akaoti ua tāua ki rēira. Te karanga nei au e, kāre tēia tamaine i te tūroto, e pirianga tōna ki a tātou no te mea kua noo a ia ki tētai tamaiti Kūki Airani tikai. Kua kite mātou tei ea tēia tamaiti e tēia tamāine i te ngāi i noo ai i Nū Tīreni, māmā ua i te akaoki mai i a ia tamāine i te akatū i a ia ki mua i te Akavāanga me ko te kaveianga te rēira ka apaiia no runga i tēia manamanatā".

"Irinaki au e, kua mānga tūkai rāi to mātou Akavā, nāna i rave i tēia kimikimianga, i te mea oki e, kāre a ia i komakomā na ki te Akavā i runga ake i a ia, i te akakite i tōna manako, i tēia kimikimianga e tēia e tāmānako nei ka rave a ia no runga i tēia manamanatā. Ko te ngāi tēia i tūkai ai te angaanga, inārā, ko tōna angaanga i rave ei a ia i te kimikimianga, mānea ua te rēira. Ko tēia i aere ei a ia i te kimi rāvenga i te tauturu i tēia tamaiti i ō ki roto i te manamanatā, kāre te rēira i roto i tā mātou akaaereanga angaanga, kāre ia i te angaanga na mātou i te aere i te apai i te au pākau aere i kino i roto i te manamanatā kia rauka mai tētai tāreanga moni i te akapouanga moni i te āmani akaou i tēia ki tōna tūranga i mua ake ka ū ai".

"Kua tāravakē i rēira tōou officer i te rēira tūranga?"

"Kua takai a ia i vao ake i te akatereanga angaang a te Akavā. Ko tēia rā oki i rave, i tēia akakiteanga mai ki āku, kua rave a ia i tēia no te mea, inangaro a ia i te tauturu i tēia tamaiti i pakia atu i roto i tēia ūanga, no rēira a ia i teke ei i vao ake i te akaaereanga angaanga i akanooia nā mātou. No atu rā tē rēira, kua raveia tēia, e kua oti tēia, e te aere nei rāi i rēira tēia akarakaraanga no runga i tēia manamanatā".

In essence Tetava admitted that the officer had stepped outside his normal duties but was only trying to help the teenager. He confirmed that the investigation into the accident is still ongoing.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Tetava for accepting the invitation to come onto the programme and for answering the questions.

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# Food Festival 2015

SHOWCASE OF AUTHENTIC COOK ISLANDS CUISINE

**Monday & Tuesday 7th - 8th December, 9am to 3pm**

**@ the National Auditorium & Tertiary Training Institute**

## COMPETITION

*NZ\$500 in prize for the **4** winning meals. We are looking for that next signature dish that traditionally represents Cook Islands. The entries will be judged Monday 7th December at 10am.*

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# Food Festival 2015

SHOWCASE OF AUTHENTIC COOK ISLANDS CUISINE

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@ the National Auditorium & Tertiary Training Institute

## Market Day

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**The debate on same sex relationships**

I want to expand on a topic which I touched on briefly in one of my previous articles. This topic has been in the news media and has gained some traction from social media sites recently. It also has our leaders running for cover as their ultra-conservative Christian supporters come out like rabid wolves denouncing those with sexual orientations that are not Christian heterosexual ones. All manner of Christians, Orometua, and those whom you would think would be enlightened in this day and age have jumped on the band wagon. They have been advocating that these people are deviates and that their sex practices are evil. They state that god made Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve or Amanda and Eve and they can quote bible scripture till the cows come home to justify their bigotry. They've even made silly statements that it is the overseas influences that are trying to get the laws changed to include gay rights, same sex marriage and same sex between consenting adults. Well I'm going to give you my take on this whole sorry affair and you may not like what I am going to say, 'sorry bout it'. All Cook Islanders need to wake up and learn about our rich heritage, our traditional customs, our Cook Islands and Polynesian history regarding our relationships with each other pre-missionary contact. As family, as warriors, as women of rank and mana, of men who hunted, fished, tilled the land and supported our women and children and worshipped the gods and respected our traditional leaders. We traded, we warred, we prospered and we created a cultural heritage that spanned tens of millions of Kms of the Pacific Ocean and we left a legacy of a proud, strong and adventurous people. We developed simple but effective ways of expressing our sexuality either heterosexually or homosexually and this was not only encouraged but enabled us to function as close knit well adjusted individuals, family, tribal and wider Polynesian society members. Polynesian society encouraged sexual experimentation and exploration, much as what occurs in many heterosexual relationships to this very day. Please, don't tell me some of you did not experiment in the privacy of your marriages. The saying, 'keep it in the family' can attest to how we looked at sexuality as a means of maintaining a healthy, vibrant and emotional connection with each other. In some Polynesian society's, with a shortage of females, boys were encouraged to become surrogate females. Some of our traditional leaders in those society's also practised both hetero and homosexual relationships. This historical information is available in the public domain from the writings of historians, anthropologists, missionaries, Captain Cook, noted Polynesian academics, passed down through the

generations, and all manner of people who lived with, met, observed or came into contact with the Polynesian way of life in those days. I urge you to get off your nono's and go and check this out before you engage your mouth rather than your brain. The first wave of papa'a that came into Polynesia could not believe their eyes when they saw bare breasted Polynesian women and semi to naked Polynesian men and their interpretations and perceptions of these first contacts has clouded and stereotyped as well as jaded Polynesian history down to modern times. They also brought with them Christian missionaries who were horrified and mortified at these uncivilised and unclothed heathens and were even more traumatised when their fellow papa'a cavorted with these Polynesian women. These heathens had to be saved and brought to the word of god. This began the rout of Polynesian society and culture as we understand it to this day. Those missionaries coerced our ancestors to become clothed, banned same sex marriage, denounced what they called deviant sexual practices under punishment of a malignant god and a life of purgatory, fire, brimstone and hell. We have Orometua who still practise this type of evangelism in their church meetings on Sunday, go figure. Many of you who are not great readers or followers of history are probably unaware of the dark reign of terror in the name of Christianity perpetuated on Europe for hundreds of years by Christians under the orders of the Church. Nor the persecution of those who practised science, or those whose scientific discoveries were covered up, denounced or confiscated all in the name of god. These missionaries brought those same ideals to Polynesia and influenced traditional leaders to become baptised Christians. They were influential in the banning of polygamy, polyandry and encouraged the disciplining of our children all according to bible scripture. You can see the influence that this has had on our society with domestic violence, child abuse, disrespect to our elders, and health issues rife throughout the Cook Islands. In addition homosexuality was a great sin and you would go to hell if you engaged in this abominable practise. So from first contact with these missionaries we come forward 150 years and what do we find a Cook Islands people that are divided by those who support gay sex and different gender rights and those who vehemently oppose this. No doubt you have all read about the debacle in Arorangi as a same sex couple were apparently denied the right by traditional leaders to repeat their vows. I am not surprised by the stance our traditional leaders have taken as it is indicative of their Christian beliefs. Unfortunately this is adding to their waning influence in the Cook Islands with our youth, rikiriki and iti tangata. Their seeming inability to keep in touch with or understand that their roles require that they provide that link between Polynesian history and the

modern ways is unfortunate. Their Christian beliefs drive their responses at a time when traditional knowledge should be applied. This includes issues of sexuality and gender according to traditional knowledge handed down pre-missionary contact that they may be unaware of or choose to be unaware of. Yes we know that the law of the land denies recognition of same sex relationships and there are penalties for this. Yes we know that the bible has scriptures which appear to denounce such practices, but the bible also has scriptures that state otherwise. The anti-sexuality brigade will quote those scriptures denouncing same sex relationships so that they influence public opinion to their way of thinking. They will shout this from the pulpits of their churches or quote scripture in the news media. This is hypocrisy and societal manipulation and social engineering of the highest order, notwithstanding that the bible also preaches a benevolent god, a kind god, a fair god and one who preaches that we are all created equal. These anti-sexuality feelings are not Polynesian ones; they are the thoughts of bigots passing themselves off as Polynesians. I have been here long enough to know that those who are decrying and making such outbursts are some of the worst sinners (bible definition) and hypocrites you can imagine. They are in loveless relationships, they feel marginalised and they turn a blind eye to their partner's infidelity, hoping it will get better and go away. Some of them even struggle with their own sexuality, and they have forgotten or choose to forget their Polynesian heritage and the responsibility that goes with this. They have abusive and bullying partners, their children have moved away from them and the church and many engage in child abuse both physically and verbally as a way of disciplining their children. They use the church and their Christian faith as a crutch and they do not have the wewithal to tidy up the kaka in their own backyards first. This is what we have become through the influence of those Christian missionaries. The sad thing is that with all the heterosexual issues they have, there are many same sex couples in the Cook Islands who are engaging in warm and loving relationships which would be the envy of their heterosexual peers. We all know who these people are and we count them as family, friends, mates, drinking buddies, sporting personalities, bosses and well respected members of our Cook Islands, so what the heck is the problem? Christian influences have impacted immensely on us as a Polynesian people; we have swapped some of our traditional ways of life for the life of supposedly a fair and objective Christian value system, unfortunately founded on a falsehood. That falsehood is that we are all created equal under the sun and in the eyes of god and unfortunately if the bigots continue to get their way, heterosexuals are created more equal than others.

# Extra Star in the Southern Cross

By Tavita

*Touchline* —(Borneo Bulletin  
Weekend)

The biggest event in recent days in world sport was Monday's New Zealand National Memorial Service to Jonah Lomu. It was the measure of his standing.

He was rugby's biggest star. Like Fangio in motor racing; Pele in football; Navratilova in tennis and Mohamed Ali in boxing... one of the true greats of all sport.

That's why Eden Park, Auckland, was jammed on Monday and hundreds of thousands more throughout New Zealand were in front of their TV sets. They watched in sadness, awe and deep respect.

Lomu was only forty when he died on November 18 of a chronic kidney disease after returning home from the World Cup.

A very short life but a magnificent one.

A few years ago, a New Zealand company was thinking of expanding into Asia. Their public relations branch conducted a survey throughout the region. It started with one question.

"What do you know about New Zealand."

Overwhelmingly, they got back one answer: "Jonah Lomu"

How right they were. Though of Tongan ancestry, Lomu was totally from New Zealand. Neither Pakeha nor Maori nor Islander.

Aotearoan. Born there. Raised there. Educated there. Dwelt there. Lived there. And last week, died there.

## THE TIMES

Many of those attending his memorial on Monday will be echoing nice, nice things. He deserved them all far, far more than many of them remember.

But memories are short.

Since the first written laws of the game in 1845, rugby was a game for the privileged. That meant the game of the private schools', predominantly white. The whole basis of the game of rugby union had been taken for granted for generation after generation.

In New Zealand, by Jonah's arrival, it had moved forward a little quicker than elsewhere. But

even there a working class star sooner or later was tempted to move to Australia and play rugby league. So it's good to remember the truth back then and what Jonah Lomu changed.

The non-white players had been excluded from South African tours. Very few protested. Those who did, I personally recall, were fired and barred from writing again. Some of us left the country and never returned again.

The game was a comfortable white man's game who tolerated talented locals and the curiosities from "the Islands".

## THE MAN

All that was changing slowly but it changed completely in 1995 when the game went professional. Money is neutral, one of the few good things about it. No distinction between race and colour.

The World Cup was held in South Africa that year and was won by the hosts with a black man somewhere in their team. But the image that forever remains was in the semi-finals.

The "Catt Try", straight through Mike Catt with half a dozen white Englishmen in his wake. It left that game of rugby union smashed. Jonah Lomu ripped through a hundred and fifty years of bigotry. It gave us a new game.

And he did it in his own way. The way his elders wished when they fought to get him accepted at Wesley College, the Auckland Eton for talented Maori and Island boys.

No diving theatrically. No tossing the ball into the crowd. No wave of hysterical team mates. Just scattered bodies in his path, touch down, a brief sporting handshake, and a jog back to the middle.

## THE WINGER

Rugby traditionally had a place for everyone in the white private school.

Short, fat and slow? Front row. Long, tall, and skinny? Second row. Scruffy, cunning, and cheating? Back row. Small and dodgy? Scrum half. Good at maths? Fly half. Knocking people out of the way? Centre. Catching the ball and kicking it into touch? Full back.



Jonah Lomu at Victoria Park Tupapa in 2011

And the winger? Nippy, good at hopping around on his own and handy for throwing the ball into the line out.

They basically stayed the same until Jonah came along. He gave up being a scruffy, cunning and cheating back rower at an early age. He took his eighteen and a half stone, six foot five inch frame and 10.7 seconds 100m speed out to the wing. He played for the national U16's, U17's, U19's and U21's. He was the youngest All Black ever at the time.

The result was a hitherto

unknown explosion of speed and agility. No forward could have been as devastating. He totally changed the game, its tactics, its strategies, coaching and statistics. Every nation sought a new kind of winger.

They all had them on show at the recent World Cup, even the All Blacks themselves. Good of course. But not one of them was the equal of Jonah Lomu. A man of dignity, humility and honour. A true Aotearoan.

An extra star in the Southern Cross.

## David Lewis at a glance

By Charles Pitt

Starting with this issue, we feature two articles by Brunei based Cook Islander David Morgan Lewis that were published in the Borneo Bulletin Weekend paper, under his pen name Tavita.

As from next week, Lewis will be contributing regular articles to the Herald under his other pen name Vera.

Lewis is a former editor of Cook Islands News and commentator on CIBNC. He also published a private newspaper, the Atiu Journal, and was given the Cook Islands Writer of the Year Award in 1986.

For the past 26 years, he has been on contract as a writer and adviser with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. As well as his official work, for the past 13 years he has written a weekly sports column for the Borneo Bulletin.

Lewis has been involved in athletics in Kenya as a coach at the top level and in NZ as a coach and administrator in Athletics and Football. In the Cook Islands Lewis was involved as an administrator in Athletics, Rugby Union and Rugby League and as a sports broadcaster. He has been a sports journalist for newspapers in Kenya, NZ, Australia, the USA and Brunei. He has also written several books on sport.

Lewis returns to the Cook Islands next year.



# Anau Leaders Heritage Project

By Lucianne Vainerere

On Wednesday 25th November the Anau leaders of Tereora College unveiled their hard work to the school. The project was a small seating area around the tree in front of the school's tuck-shop so that students who did not make it onto the tables on time could sit under the tree and enjoy their lunch.

The initiative behind the project was to leave behind something that was from them wholeheartedly. The 16 students spent roughly two weeks to complete the project while juggling studies, part-time jobs and family responsibilities.

Under the guidance of their Project Manager – Tیره Haworth they managed to finish the project on time. As a result they would like to thank these students for their help and support: Lovelyn Giva-Tuke, Ta Uatai Junior Rere (JT), Abela Va'asa, Tinokura Tautu, Apaitoa Strickland, Teiti Tupuna, Tania Paio, Moeroa



Ben, Dannette Daniel and Mrs Hosking and family, Ms will never know the value of Agnes Daniel. Also a huge Pukerua, Mrs Ngaau and our a moment until it becomes a meitaki maata to Mr Ngaau, Principal Mrs Morgan. "You memory." Dr.Seuss



The seating area at Tereora College. Inset top: Principal Mrs Morgan unveiling the plaque for the seating. Inset bottom: the new plaque for the 2015 Anau leaders Heritage Project



# That's Vaka Eiva for you

By Teherenui Koteka

Last week was that time of the year where people from all around the world flock to Rarotonga for the Vaka Eiva festival. Paddlers came all the way from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii and even as far as Canada to participate in the festivities. However like all good things Vaka Eiva must come to an end. But even though the paddling festivities have subsided we can still reminisce about that awesome ton of excitement that flooded our paddling lives last week. Like most paddlers I spend the majority of the year waiting for Vaka Eiva, it creeps slowly up to you from January and even slower when it is almost here in November, but when it comes, it never disappoints. On Saturday the 21st of November Trader Jacks flooded with paddlers and spectators all eager to bear witness to the annual Vaka Eiva V1 and OC1 races. For all of you out there that do not know what a V1 or an OC1 is, they are single outrigger canoes, V1 canoes do not have rudders but OC1 canoes do. This happens to be one of my favourite races and in my mind it is definitely one of the most challenging. Participants ranged from the age of 15 to 70+, they were required to paddle 6 kilometres to a halfway turn and back another 6 kilometres that ended at Trader Jacks, the race in total was a whopping 12 kilometres. Luckily enough for the brave participants of this particular race the conditions were perfect for singles races and everyone came in happy and accomplished.

Monday the 23rd of November was reserved for V6 iron races. Unlike Saturday the ocean was not so tame. The waves were bigger and the wind was stronger, but that did not stop the paddlers. Lined up at 7am for registration paddlers begun preparing for the day of racing that was about to follow. As paddlers took to the water to



begin their 12 kilometre race, the awesome Vaka Eiva safety crew briefed them on the conditions and how to avoid capsizing. The race course was altered multiple times that day but that did not stop the paddlers who were all out eager to win medals and the special elite race shirts that went to the 1st place winners of each division. Paddles hit the water hard that day as paddlers battled it out on the 12 kilometre race course, I am proud to say that our local teams Ngakau Toa Vaka and Te Tupu O Te Manava did incredibly well as always, often taking out the first place medals. After the prize giving on Monday night LBV Avarua played host to the paddle art festival. I myself had been waiting weeks to see the unveiling of the artwork displayed that night and may I say, the display was worth the wait. It was remarkable to see the talent that our Cook Island artist possess, 40 paddles were decorated by an array of artists of all ages. The paddle art was on display the whole night and paddles sold for as much as \$500.

Tuesday the 24th was split into two different races. One was held down in Muri where the Oe Mapu began with 6 and 4 kilometre races inside Muri Lagoon, and from there volunteers raced back towards Trader Jacks where

the second event of the day was held, the Round Rarotonga Race. Unfortunately due to race conditions participants did not get the opportunity to paddle around the island and instead paddled an alternative course of 36 kilometres. Like always the paddlers were not discouraged but instead rose to the occasion and took to the water in an attempt to take home those 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals.

Wednesday the 25th was spent out in Muri where paddlers in the senior division had their annual Muri Mingler Sprint Day. A day dedicated to fun was what this day was, although there was some hearty competition the Muri Sprint day was filled with laughter, games and delicious food. Thursday the 26th was also spent down in Muri where the junior division had their annual Muri sprint day. Despite the rain and the wind paddlers took to the water to compete for more medals that would later be awarded at the Junior Wrap-Up. A day filled with fun, we paddled, swam, played games and of course no Muri Sprint Day is complete without making a few friends. Later that night the Junior Divisions all made their way down to Nikao for the Junior Wrap-Up Party. The night was spent playing carnival games, making smores and singing

Karaoke.

Friday was the final day of Vaka Eiva, the Pacific Cup Round Rarotonga Race. Again the conditions on the southern side were not favourable and the course was not in fact 'Round Raro' but once again paddlers showed no dismay and instead paddled the 36 kilometres required to paddle round the island. Our local teams again showed their strength and knowledge of their ocean by emerging victorious all day. That night was the closing ceremony, and after a feast prepared for the paddlers there was a show. 17 local artists took to the stage and preformed all night. We danced and sang and ate and laughed and it was a great end to Vaka Eiva. Just like every year Vaka Eiva eventually had to end, no matter how much we wish it wouldn't. This year was one of the most memorable Vaka Eiva Festivals I have ever participated in. The closing ceremony was preformed entirely by local artist and really set Vaka Eiva 2015 off with a bang, and if you are going to end Vaka Eiva it has to be with a bang. So once again Vaka Eiva has come and it has gone, but now we start the anxious waiting again. I can see it crawling slowly towards me and I guess I just have to Ka Kite for now, but until November next year I'll be waiting.



# Crunch time for world's largest fishery

By Helen Greig

It is crunch time for the world's largest tuna fishery after more than a decade of overfishing bigeye tuna says the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Director of Global Tuna Conservation for the organization, Amanda Nickson, is heading a delegation in Bali, Indonesia to present recommendations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) at its 12th annual session this week.

At least 60 percent of the global tuna catch comes out of the waters managed by the Commission – the largest of the five international bodies that manage tuna.

"The Commission is facing a couple of really big challenges right now. The first is that despite over a decade of advice about the state of bigeye tuna it is still subject to overfishing and it is overfished.

"Thus far, commercial vessels in the Pacific have been overfishing for years despite the warning about the decline," says Nickson.

Half of the bigeye is caught as unwanted by-catch by large purse

seine vessels targeting skipjack tuna. The bigeye they take are juveniles caught in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs).

Pew has just released its updated estimate of the number of FADs that are deployed in the world's oceans each year.

"This is particularly important for this Commission because it is fishing in association with these devices that is driving overfishing of bigeye and currently the Commission has yet to agree on appropriate measures," says Nickson.

"Our new report indicates an increase of approximately 14 per cent over the past couple of years with respect to the number of FADs, taking the total number now to approximately 121,000 FADs per year that are deployed."

In 2014 a stock assessment found that bigeye had declined to 16 per cent of its unfished numbers and the Commission's Scientific Committee recommended reducing overall fishing mortality by 36 per cent from 2008-2011 levels.

"There has been 10 years of advice that this species has

been subject to overfishing – 10 years is plenty of time to come to agreement on appropriate mortality reduction. It is well overdue for the Commission to come to an agreement," says Nickson.

She says any evidence that indicates overfishing should be considered compelling enough to act.

The scientific advice at this stage indicates that the impact on bigeye overall is about equal between purse seining and longline fisheries, according to Nickson.

"I believe certainly that there is a greater level of scrutiny of the Commission at this stage, and that is part of the reason that we feel very strongly that coverage in the media of the tuna fishery and associated management issues is very important."

Nickson says with increasing global market interest in sourcing tuna sustainably it is in the best interests of all of those involved in the fishery to ensure that it is well managed.

"Our view is that in terms of FAD management and ending overfishing of bigeye, measures

need to be applicable across the region in a way that really does lead to mortality reduction."

Nickson says Pew's view is that altering the types of FADs used does not work in reducing bycatch.

"The FAD closures that have been put in place have also been shown not to work," she adds.

"What we do know from the science is that there is a direct correlation between number of times you set on a FAD and the catch of juvenile bigeye. It seems clear to us that the way forward on this is to actually adopt FAD set limits for the commission."

Nickson says the other major priority for the Commission at this year's session should be the adoption of harvest strategy work plans and timelines, given the increasing threats to the sustainability of tuna stocks in the region.

Pew believes as a first step the Commission should adopt the proposed target reference points for skipjack and South Pacific Albacore tuna being tabled this week.

Target reference points are the agreed ideal level for the stock.

## Busy week for youth at 4th National Youth Conference

By Haley McNabb

The Cook Islands National Youth Council is currently holding the fourth national youth conference here in Rarotonga. The Cook Islands youth councils current president Nukutau Poukura explains that this event is held every two to three years and cannot be an annual event as it can be very costly so she says that the Cook Islands National Youth Council acknowledges UNESCO and the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association for their partnership and the financial support in making this youth forum possible. For this event the Cook Islands Youth Council have called together all members of the National Youth Council that includes youth representatives from outer islands as well as from around Rarotonga.

On Monday 29th November the youth forum officially opened with an opening ceremony in the form of a dinner

that included the Minister Albert Nicholas addressing the youth of the program that will be happening over the next three days. Everyday is topic and issue oriented and has also been split up into thematic areas. Each theme has been branched out from the overall theme of "Strengthening the path of the youth."

On Tuesday 1st December the particular focus was leadership and decision-making and also health and well-being. There was an open event with a youth parliament at parliament house that gave an opportunity for youth members and young people to see how decision-making at the highest level is conducted. We attended this event starting at 9am and it was about the Family Law Bill 2014-Part 5- Care and protection. In addition the Cook Islands Youth Council also incorporated with World Aids Day and partnered with agencies that

commemorate this day.

On Wednesday their focus is sustainable livelihood, youth and enterprise and employment. The whole days event on this day was a trip to the Arorangi trade school and the Cook Islands Tertiary Institute in Ngatangia. The purpose of this trip was not only to look at sessions that require just discussion and

talking but also to do field visits and out of sight events so that the youth members can learn and gain more understanding about their focus.

On Thursday they will conclude the forum with governance work of youth council as well as an election of the new office bearers for the next two or three years.

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# Difficult decisions ahead on overfished bigeye tuna

By Helen Greig

The accidental catch of juvenile bigeye tuna in the Pacific's skipjack tuna fishery will be a hot topic at this year's annual meeting of the Tuna Commission this week.

There is no magic bullet to reduce bigeye bycatch in by the purse seine industry or the fishery's reliance on FAD (fish aggregating device) fishing, according to the Pacific Community's (SPC) oceanic fisheries chief scientist Dr John Hampton.

Use of FADs by purse seiners looking for skipjack is known to increase the catch of bigeye.

The current level of bigeye stock is at about 16 per cent of its unexploited level, falling short of the limit reference point of 20 per cent.

"This is a level at which we don't believe it is prudent to allow a stock to go beneath. It's not a black and white situation. It's a question of risk. It's generally accepted that when you get down below 20 per cent there's enhanced risk of undesirable things happening with the future generations being produced by the stock, and so on."

Hampton says both the purse seine fishery and longline fishery have contributed to the overfishing of bigeye.

"On the purse seine side it's a really difficult decision. Ultimately we need to find a way for the purse seine fishery to operate with FADs and reduce the bigeye catch somehow, or as we've been trying to do, reduce the reliance on FAD fishing more generally. And both of those things are quite hard to do. So there's no magic bullet at this point."

Hampton says currently FAD closures are in place with Pacific fishing nations able to choose between a three month or four month closure in their waters.

"If countries choose the three month closure they then also have an annual FAD set limit, which is quite a stronger measure because you have some control over what's happening for the whole 12 months of the year. I

think if the Commission can pull together a way of having full year round limits on FAD sets, I think that would be a helpful thing."

Hampton says with environmental conditions such as El Nino pushing skipjack stocks to the east, there has been an increase in purse seine vessels moving to fish in the area.

"Currently the west is still the real core of the purse seine fishery and it's only some years that would support large catches in areas like the Cook Islands which are also a little bit south of where things tend to happen as well."

Environmentalists in the Cook Islands are currently calling for a ban on purse seining.

Hampton says there is no way to know if banning purse seine fishing in Cook Islands waters would have any significant conservation impact for bigeye tuna.

"The Cook Islands is not an area that's been extensively fished in the past by purse seine. In fact, it may be that they don't have as big a bigeye [bycatch] problem there, just because of its southern displacement," he says.

"We felt it was worthwhile to have a go and see what the catches are like. My view and the advice that we gave to the Cooks is you don't ever have any data or evidence for what these catches of bigeye are going to be until you actually allow some fishing to occur, and then make your decisions on the basis of evidence, rather than arm-waving."

Hampton says given recent history, the purse seiners are likely to operate only in the northernmost waters of the Cook Islands.

"They would be well away from the main population centres in the Cook Islands, so I would not expect there to be any substantial or measurable negative interaction with what people in Rarotonga are catching on their nearshore FADs for tuna and other pelagics."

Meanwhile, Hampton says SPC's evaluation of the Western and Central Pacific



Director of Global Tuna Conservation, Amanda Nickson, Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) conservation management measure (CMM) relating to bigeye tuna is that it is unlikely to meet its objectives.

"One of the problems is that the measures that comprise the CMM itself are very loose. There's lots of areas of uncertainty as to how individual states will apply it. There are alternatives given between things like having an extended FAD closure or having an annual limit on the number of FAD sets, which is particularly important for bigeye tuna."

At the same time, skipjack tuna catches continue to rise each year as purse seine effort increases across the region. A proposal for a target reference point for skipjack will also be tabled at WCPFC's 12th session in Bali.

"Essentially, the target reference point is the level at which you'd like the stock to be to optimize your management objectives. The target reference point that will try to manage the skipjack stock at about half of the level that it would have been under unexploited conditions."

New technology used in FAD fishing has seen the catch of skipjack climb well above other tuna.

"The fact that we are not seeing those increases for bigeye tuna and even yellowfin tuna as well, probably means the catches are now being limited by the abundance of the fish, whereas skipjack can continue to respond to larger catches as these fishing methods become ever more effective," says Hampton



# Living above average

Part 2

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

**G**od never meant for you and I to live an average life. We are designed for excellence!

God called us to do great works for Him, He purposed us to be achievers! Too often God's people settle for less, too often we are self accepting of a lot less than God has for us. In the Old Testament Book of I Chronicles 4v.9-10 is a story of a man called Jabez (Iabeza). The question is "What sets Jabez apart from the crowd?" Here in the midst of 600 other names, his name stands out as a man who was above average. If we want to start living above average:

### 1 WE NEED A DREAM!

Jabez had a Dream that God would give him more land! In I Chronicles 4v.10 Jabez called to God "...Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory." If you don't have a life dream then I encourage you to seek God earnestly in that direction. People who have a dream stand out in the crowd. Dare to dream of something great for your life, dare to dream great works you can do for God. Jabez thought big and he spoke big "...bless me and enlarge my territory." In v.10 it says "...so God granted him what he requested."

### 2. WE NEED A GROWING FAITH

We need to believe that God can accomplish the dream through us. Jabez not only had a Great DREAM, but he CONFESSED it. The Book of Romans tells us that "Faith comes by hearing..." (Romans 10v.17). As we CONFESS our Dream we hear it, and we become inspired, and we become committed to it! It charges us with hope and belief that it can be accomplished. In Mark 9v.23 Jesus tells us that "Everything is possible for him who believes." No dream is without it's opposition, that's why Jabez said, "...keep me

from evil..." Jabez was a man of no special talent but he had a growing faith, he believed in his confession to God.

### 3 WE NEED A GENUINE PRAYER LIFE.

When we first read Jabez's prayer, we think he is selfish, because he wanted more than he had. Yet, God approved what Jabez asked. Ambition is neither good or bad, but it is the motives behind it. Proverbs 16v.2 (CEV) tells us that "...the Lord is the judge of our motives." James 4v.2(b)-3 (CEV) says that "...you won't get it by fighting and arguing. You should pray for it. Yet even when you do pray, your prayers are not answered, because you pray just for selfish reasons."

It is not so much what we ask for, but rather the motive behind it! If it is self glorifying, self promotion, self pleasing, then don't expect God to bless you! If it is within the scripture of "...seeking first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." then God will pour out His blessings upon us!

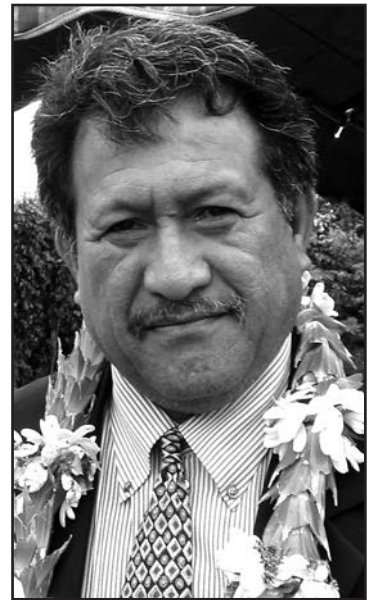
In a genuine prayer life before God, Jabez shows us THREE Things we can pray for.

First, GOD'S POWER in our lives! Jabez prayed "Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory." More land means more power! Jabez needed more power than his own to accomplish his dream! Ephesians 3v.20 (CEV) says "...His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine."

Secondly, we can pray for GOD'S PRESENCE in our lives! Jabez said to God (v.10) "...that Your hand would be with me..." More responsibility means a greater need for God's presence. Being successful can often cause us to become independent of God rather than depending more upon Him. Too often we call upon

God when we're in trouble. God wants to be in our successes and failures! If we do not desire God's presence in our successes, then pride has taken charge of our lives.

Thirdly, Jabez prayed to God "...Keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" Jabez prayed for GOD'S PROTECTION over his life. We too should do the same. Remember, pray for GOD'S POWER Pray for GOD'S PRESENCE Pray for GOD'S PROTECTION. May these words encourage and help you live above average to do great things that God purposed for your life.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 aiai. 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"

# Thieves target plantations

By Hayley McNabb.

**D**o you have a plantation of any kind? Yes or No? Well either way how would you feel if you came to check on your plantation one day and there was nothing left? After all the hard work, time and effort you have put in to planting, growing and harvesting, you come back and see you get nothing in return all because some foolish and thoughtless people come and think that it is okay to take it away from you because they have nothing better to do or what not.

There has been a recent complaint that was sighted on the Rarotonga Community and Beyond facebook page by a man from Aitutaki. He furiously explains that he is not happy about the fact that after the extremely hard work his family and himself has put in to creating their beautiful pineapple orchard he comes back to see that about 400 shoots have been stolen.

Many people like to sell their fruit and vegetables down at the markets or just from home as another way to make money

for themselves and their family. So when it comes to the time you are ready to pick your fruit and vegetables and find that it is all gone, this is such an unfair thing to have happened to you because in the end someone else will be earning money for the work you have done.

I just do not see how people can be so selfish and steal from other people after all they have done to get where they are. This type of theft and any type of theft of course is a serious matter that needs to be taken into not only the Police but also the hands of the community. By keeping an eye and ear out for any information you can collect on any thefts will bring Police one step closer to finding the thieves.

Also helping each other out just by being aware of what's happening around you if you see someone suspicious or a group of people that look like they might be up to something call the Police or someone that will help because you never know what the outcome may be.

# Back with a bang

By Mareva Cameron

**A**s I stepped off the stairs and onto the tarmac, I was surprised to be met by a big gust of wind, which lifted my dress, how embarrassing, of course I was wearing shorts underneath but still, that's embarrassing. Anyways, walking into the familiar entrance that's has a sign with big letters at the top 'WELCOME TO THE COOK ISLANDS', is one of the best feelings in the world. Knowing you're home, knowing that when you walk out through the exit doors, you'll be covered in hugs and kisses and ei's, knowing you'll get to see the people you've missed for – to be exact, 297 days – and breathe in the familiar scent of your lovely family that smothers you with love, that was a feeling that'll take your happiness level from its max, to well, above its max.

As I stood waiting for my luggage, watching each bag pass and studying them to see if they were mine, the baggage claim escalator type thing suddenly stopped. All of us confused, waiting for another dreadful twenty minutes, we were told the escalator thing had broken down, which lead to a large amount of loud "uggghhhh"s I looked to the side of me through the windows and I see my big baby Charles-Trevor with my cousin Hayley! Excitement ran all through my body, CT was miming, "did you buy me toys???" This kid holds my heart, he's such a cutie.

Due to the setback, all of us helped the crew bring the bags to the middle of the floor allowing passengers to get their bags themselves. After a couple of bags passing around I see my red and black suitcase, and I remember thinking "Not long now". I grabbed that suitcase and headed towards the lady collecting the declaration

slips. She allowed me to go through and I stepped out of the doors and was greeted by a great big hug around my waist by my baby CT, I bent down and gave him a big tight hug and smothered his face with kisses! Then I was greeted by my sister, TeRiu who's having my second son – hahaha – and is due at the end of January! I gave her a big hug and stared at her stomach, it was huge! Ei's were placed over my head and I saw my Nana Shona and my Uncle Trevor, and then saw Hayley, it was so good to be home!

TeRiu told me my great grandma, Mama Ligi, is at home waiting for me, so we hopped in the car and drove down to her place, gossiping along the way. Walking on the kiri kiri pathway towards her front door and yelled out "Yoo hoo?!" and the reply I got was "Woo hooo!" I saw her fragile face through the window and gave her a giant hug, she was as tall as my shoulders. We sat around the table, my sister brought her a new pair of sunglasses for her 60 plus lunch that would've taken place the next day at the Atiu Tumunu. I took a photo of her with her glasses on and made her do the peace sign, it felt sooo good to be home!

Nana Pitt took me around her neighbor hood, introducing me to one of the new neighbors, then we went to see the lovely and funny Teremoana, Norma had just come back from NZ too, she was at uni, she's back for her holiday and man has she gone lighter! That girl needs to get a tan ASAP. We sat around the table eating mangoes and laughing, the mangoes were so yum! They weren't in season in Samoa so it was so good to have some! To end my lovely day, me and my cousin went for a drive to CITV so I could say hi to everyone. It was so good to be home.

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Last Tuesday the Acting Prime Minister Bulldozer Bully Boy Heta attended cabinet impersonating Elvis Phonney by wearing sunglasses, he explained his black eye and swollen cheek wasn't because he had an altercation with his brother Smelly but he had fallen over. What he didn't say is his injury was a result of being assaulted by one of the T&M Heather Ltd workers. The worker was angry at the way he was being verbally abused by the DPM so he punched him then when the Bully lost his balance and fell down he got a kick in the head. The worker then ran off and Bully Boy told two of the workers to go after the one who punched him and beat him up. Two of them went around to the workers house and told the puncher they are supposed to beat him up but instead they all had a good laugh and they said "good on you," they returned to work and told the embarrassed Heta they couldn't find the man only the mother was at home. Needless to say the puncher lost his job.

Government workers protesting against the policies of their bosses are being noted, watch one of the leaders of the anti purse seine fishing Passfield do a back flip and compromise his demands, when the jobs are on the line their testicles turn to rubber.

How impractical are some people, former member of RAPPA John Henry has turned down the opportunity to be our NZ High Commissioner in Wellington. He was overheard in the Bank recently telling someone in a very public way the CIP tried to bribe him to clear the way for Albert Nicholas to be the next CIP

candidate for RAPPA. Boy did he vent his wrath.

Over heard the Demo pretender Smelly Heta telling a CIP rooster come the next sitting of parliament and there will be a change of government. When are the Demos going to start focusing on paying their debts instead of fantasizing?

Whoops chooks! What's the protocol with seating arrangements in parliament? The whisper is, the Clerk and the Speaker acting on a request, are trying to rearrange seating for two members but did not realize this is the prerogative of the PM.

Oh dear chooks! Unhappiness in the netball camp as netball in paradise has struck a hiccup with costs imposed for referees on the visiting teams who have been asked to front up \$500 each for the refs! Local teams have not been asked to pay anything. Who's court is the ball in now?

Those attending the public meeting at the Muri meeting house on Tuesday evening to discuss the state of Muri lagoon may have noticed an unusual event involving the

"Demo party top brass." Firstly, in strolls Demo leader, Smiley Feather and positions himself against the far wall. Next, in ambles Deputy Demo Leader Tama accompanied by James Beer and they position themselves against the wall opposite the Leader. A party united?

Whisper overheard chooks is that the brand new Chinese machinery allocated to the Demos Auntie Mau and James Beer has been taken off their hands. Where the machinery will now be going is not known.

How hard is it to conceal the theft of 400 pineapple plants on a small land mass like Aitutaki? Get an Air Raro plane in the air and do a search. Send up a drone! Bring in the Police sniffer pooch! Perhaps the stolen plants have been secreted away to another island?

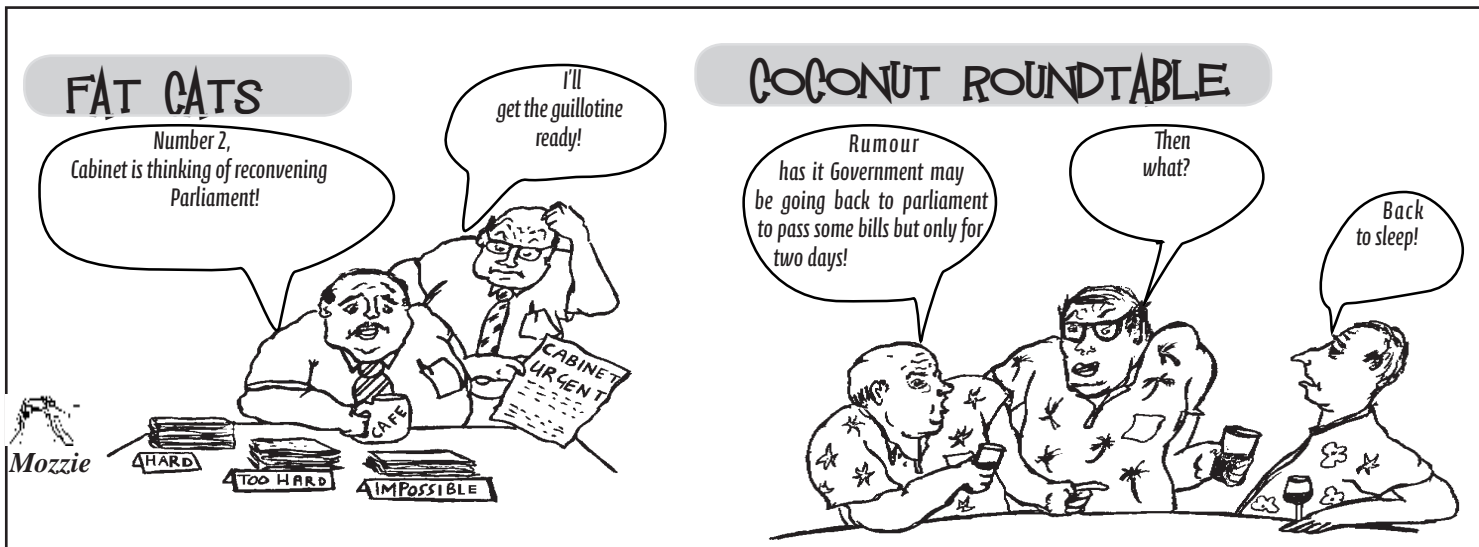
Local market vendor went to Health to renew her annual license for selling food cooked at home, at the market." The local was surprised to learn the fee has gone up now to \$20.00 and is not annual but to be paid twice yearly, \$40 a year! And that's not all, starting next year, as indicated

on the certificate this applies also to anyone selling vegetables! From next year, anyone growing vegetables to sell at the market will need to have a certificate 'from Health.' Is it to certify the colour of tomatoes when ripe? The length of Buk choy or how long a banana is? Has Health gone overboard?

Whisper from our spy at the Muri Lagoon meeting on Tuesday night chooks is that a full hall heard passionate arguments for and against the DPM's grand plan to dredge a channel to flush the lagoon out. DPM Feather wanted to start dredging Wednesday colleague, Growing Minita True wanted an EIA done first! DPM Feather proposed a small channel to start with but True Repute and local greenies objected, wanting more research! No wonder DPM Feather stormed off.

One crewman aboard the SS Daily has been signing statements he did not even write. The ship's log a few days ago showed an entry by one of the passengers but not their name. That's because a crewman (bula!) put his moniker to the entry instead.

Whisper is parliament is to reconvene soon but only for two days, to pass some Bills, one of them could be the Family Law Bill. The PM is deliberately avoiding the third day which is usually the day for private members affairs because there is a motion of no confidence already tabled. The PM however does not realize that for any Bill to pass it needs a majority vote and that is something in very short supply at present!



# Showcase of authentic Cook Islands Cuisine

*"In search of that next Cook Islands signature authentic local dish"*

**B**TIB in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Trade and Investment – NZ has been commissioned to

Facilitate an event for the 50th Celebrations for the Trade, Tourism Food Festival.

A new event to showcase our Cook Islands flavours, tastes and aroma. An authentic local food festival that engages the community to create an original and creative meals that will be judged by an International Chef along with our very own award winning Local Chefs. Cash prizes will be presented to the best authentic and indigenous cuisine.

Monday 7th of December 2015 at the National auditorium will see the event officially open get right into cooking competition. We are searching that next Cook Islands signature authentic

local dish. Raw Fish dish that is different and better than any other raw fish or a chicken, pork or seafood dish like no other. Be creative, think outside the box?

If you know of a great local meal and want to earn \$500 enter our Te Kai Maori Food Festival competition.

We are looking for - 4 dishes to win \$500 each.

Competition Criteria

We are looking for 4 dishes to enable us to present an Entrée, Main & Dessert at our Gala Dinner on Tuesday 8th December 2015.

The dishes must be balanced with a Protein (Meat, Fish or Vegetarian), Vegetable/ Salad component and a starch (Taro, Manioka, Kumara, uto...) component.

The contestant's meals will have to showcase a dish/s

that truly represents the Cook Islands. Chop suey, mayonnaise, potato salad, coconut rolls, donuts, pureni are not authentic and will not be accepted.

Winners will be presented their award and prizes during this formal evening on Tuesday 8th December at the Gala dinner. This will be a fine Dine experience with restaurant quality 3 course meals of the winning dishes. Served by our very own Jnr Chefs at the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute

Day two, Tuesday morning from 9am – 2pm at the Mairenui park will see Te Kai Maori market day take place in collaboration with Ministry of Cultures launch of Te Maevan Nui DVD part 2. Also featured at the market day will be Miss Pacific Islands contestant's crafts stalls amongst the local vendors.

Meanwhile from 8am to

3pm the junior chefs at the Cook Islands Tertiary Institute Kitchen in Turangi will be reproducing the winning dishes. PT&I chef ambassador Aaron and Heather Freeman will be working alongside our junior chefs to produce restaurant quality meals for the Gala Dinner to be held later that night at 6pm at the Auditorium serving guests including the Miss Pacific Pageant contestants.

The outcome of Te Kai Maori Showcase is a greater working Partnership with the Pacific Islands Trade and Invest NZ and Cook Islands Agencies of the Cook Islands Government. It will incorporate the use of local products, people and services that should have the ability to identify a future export components and prospective service products.

## New Cook Islands brand to launch on 16 December

**C**ook Islands Tourism will launch its new destination brand under the slogan "Love a Little Paradise" inspired by the beauty of its landscape and the innocent, earthy and playful character of the people of the Cook Islands. This is the first time that an entire community, tourism industry and the heads of Government are involved, through surveys and workshops, in creating a brand that reflects perfectly and in a straightforward manner the reality of the Cook Islands and its people.

The launch will take place at the National Auditorium with a free viewing starting at 6pm on Wednesday

16th December 2015, under a partnership programme with the Ministry of Cultural Development and BTIB to engage effectively with the Cook Islands community. The Ministry of Cultural Development will also launch its Traditional Themes for 2016 on the night and BTIB will create a community based environment by having a night market during the launch.

It was clear that the new brand

had to be done collaboratively and based on a simple, distinctive strategy for selling the Cook Islands. It had to be easily understood and implemented by all including airlines, wholesalers, travel agents, sales ambassadors, tourism industry and all members of the Cook Islands community.

The new brand strategy seeks to differentiate the idyllic South Pacific nation from its key competitors and raise awareness with a visitor segment as soft explorers. The new identity is aimed at all those who want more than a holiday resort but a paradise that offers a variety of experiences and light adventures beyond the confines of a resort. These visitors also value authentic interactions with locals.

Thus the phrase "Love a Little Paradise" defines the main feature that makes the Cook Islands different with regard to other Pacific islands: its intimate size, the full extent of the islands becomes a huge resort in paradise that rest comfortably and hassle-free while enjoying not only the scenery, but also

the hospitality of its people and culture and local traditions.

Thus the word "Little" refers to its reasonable size that allows a host of incredible experiences by only touring its main islands, and just 30 minutes after getting off the plane, you can enjoy your crystal waters, besides staying in boutique hotels never higher than the palm trees, and few rooms. Along with the expected qualities paradise brings, visitors to the islands are also invited to experience the feeling of freedom with which the people of the Cook Islands live daily. The people of the Cook Islands live in a connected community.

A new creative identity will cut through the plethora of beach and island advertising with an eye catching new logo incorporating uniquely Cook Islands emblems and the use of bright pink, turquoise and navy. The logo has been designed to immediately communicate the name 'Cook Islands' to counter the issue of low awareness for the destination.

Halatoa Fua, CEO of the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation

commented 'This is a 3-phase process which started by identifying the Unique Selling Proposition of the Cook Islands being centred on the Kia Orana Values of its people and culture. The second phase was to develop the business strategy and brand strategy based on a collaborative process with key stakeholders. The last phase was to produce the necessary content required to persuade visitors to book their Cook Islands holiday. This is when the Katu Kanga series were produced and we are all excited to launch this to the Cook Islands community on 16

December 2015'.

Halatoa Fua further noted 'this is a historical moment for the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation because an appealing international brand was developed based on the cultural values of the Cook Islands people. The Katu Kanga series further strengthens our message and it is something every Cook Islander will be proud of and there will be a lot of national pride on the launch night'.



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Applications should be addressed to:

Jean-Baptiste loaba & Brian Mason  
Directors  
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P.O. Box 325  
Avarua  
Rarotonga  
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or sent by e-mail to Jean-Baptiste loaba, Director at: [seanioaba@gmail.com](mailto:seanioaba@gmail.com)

All applications received on or before December 4, 2015 will be considered.

TENDER



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GOVERNANCE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF THE GENERATION AND SUPPLY OF  
ELECTRICITY IN THE COOK ISLANDS**

**Request for Tender**

The Office of the Prime Minister is seeking tender submissions for the Governance and Management of the Generation and Supply of Electricity in the Cook Islands.

The contract will contribute to the sustainable and effective performance of the electricity sector in the Cook Islands. The outcome of the Contract will provide government key recommendations for decision making as a way forward for the Electricity sector.

Full tender documents and conditions, please refer to [www.procurement.gov.ck](http://www.procurement.gov.ck). Reference number 151616

Queries can be directed to Tangi Tereapii, Renewable Energy Development Division, Office of the Prime Minister, ph 25494 ext 808.

Tender submissions close 4.00pm Monday 14th December 2015 (Cook Islands time). Tenders must be deposited in the Tender Box at the Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD), Office of the Prime Minister, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TAU NEW POWER HOUSE PROJECT, AVATIU VALLEY,  
RAROTONGA**

We are experiencing a problem with traffic travelling too fast at the entrance to the power station in Avatiu Valley where TAU civil works are in progress.

Visitors, residents and users of the Avatiu Valley road are asked to take extra care and slow down along the section of the road beside the power station during normal working hours. Watch out for heavy vehicles, plant and machinery that may be manoeuvring or parked on the roadside. Keep an eye out for loose gravel and debris on the road from time to time.

VACANCIES



Apata Group Ltd is a kiwifruit post harvest packhouse facility based in the sunny Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

We are looking for staff for our kiwifruit packing season starting in mid March 2016 through to mid June 2016.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Michaela on 0064 7 5520523 or email [michaela.gallear@apata.co.nz](mailto:michaela.gallear@apata.co.nz) stating you are in the Cook Islands.

Once we have received expressions of interest, an Apata representative will arrange a date to start the recruitment process.

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# ADVERTISE WITH THE COOK ISLANDS HERALD

Cook Islands Herald Issue 795

## TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 30 NOV 2015

## Stealing from local growers

Talkback discussion was back on the menu on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 30th November 2015.

In his introduction presenter Tony Hakaoro said that the first subject for talkback relates to thieves stealing from local growers. He said produce being stolen from growers include arrowroot, kūmara, water melons and others.

The second subject, in relation to the recent protest march against purse seine fishing, Hakaoro questions whether it was appropriate involving and having children participate in the protest march.

“Tō tātou tumu tāpura i tēia aia nei, tumu tāpura mua, tēia au taeake e keikeiā nei i tā tātou au one kai, te au one kai a tō tātou au metua, te one māniota, te kūmara, te merēni, te ma`ata nei te aronga keikeiā”.

“Te rua o te tumu tāpura, kōtou te au metua tei māti i roto i te māti o te tautai kupenga, tēia te tumu tāpura, te kite atū ra tātou i tētai au tamariki tei roto i tēia māti, i tē rēira māti i rave`ia i tē rēira rā. E mea tau āinei tēia kia apai mai i tā tātou au tamariki rikiriki ki roto i tē rēira māti? Ko te ui`anga tēia no runga i tēia tumu tāpura. E mea tau āinei te au tamariki kia tomo ki roto i tē rēira māti?

One particular caller to the programme spoke very well in Māori in response to both subjects and in expressing her views.

She said she was particularly pleased to see children, six to nine year olds, and their parents, joining the march. She added that she supports parents involving their children in the march as it is something for them, the children, to learn and benefit from, in the future.

“Kāre, nā mua au i tērā mea tumu manako openga oki ta tātou tamariki i roto i te māti, tēia māti i rave ua ia ake nei, aere mātou, koia tikāi te tamariki i roto, rekareka tikāi au i te au metua i tari mai i ta rātou tamariki ki roto i te māti. E apii oki tēia ki a rātou, te apii nei, i āku, e apii tēia nā te au metua ki ta rātou au tamariki no te tuātau ki mua because, e akatau atū rā au i te nūmero mataiti o tēia au utua tamariki aere, mei te ono, itu, varu, iva mataiti aere

tēia utua tamariki nei. A tēia au tuātau ki mua, ka riro mai rātou e au aronga mei a Moko mā rāi e aerē ra ki te moana oonu i taī ra, no rēira, yes, te turu nei au i tēia au tutua metua aere i te tari mai i ta rātou tamariki aere kia piri ki roto i te māti. E apiianga tēia na te metua ki te tamariki no to rātou tuātau i te tuātau e tuātau ai”.

She stated there is absolutely nothing wrong with involving children in the protest march as the essence of the march relates to their future in terms of fish as a source of food.

“Kāre, kāre e tāravakē i roto, kāre e tāravakē, te apii ra te au metua no te mea, kua kite oki tātou i tēia kupenga tāiri poti eā, tēia kupenga tāiri poti, kua kite tātou, kua mārama tātou i te `āiteanga o te tāiri poti ē, e tāiri poti rāi a roto i te tai, inā, me tāiri poti `ua, tāiri poti `ua a roto i te tai, ea`a i rēira te pākau ka toe mai na tēia utua tamariki ei tautai me inangaro ake rātou i te kai ika, kāre, kāre, mē e aronga tētai ē, kua manako rātou ē, e au `āpi`i`anga kino tēia, kāre”.

In relation to thieves stealing grower's produce she said stealing is not a Cook Island thing. She stated that the Cook Islands way is to exchange goods by barter, that if she wants some of Tony's kūmara for example, she would take a bundle of bananas and exchange them with Tony for some of his kūmaras.

“Ae, te aronga keikeiā, i Tony te `iu tikāi i tēia aronga keikeiā, te `iu, kāre tēia i te peu Kūki Airani. Tāku i kite au i te peu Kūki Airani, e kūmara `oki tā Tony mā, e meika `oki tā mātou i rēira eā, me ka inangaro au i tētai kūmara a Tony, apai au i tētai kā`ui meika āku ki korai i a Tony, tiēni, you know,

oake atu au, oake mai, e pati `oki tēia eā, `oko, mei ti rēira rāvenga, ka karanga `oki te papa`ā e, e bartering eā”.

She said that if bartering is not an option then one only needs to knock on the door and ask. She added that she is certain that when one asks, it would be given, and those giving would be happy to do so and that there would be no ill or bitter feeling afterwards.

“Mē kāre ra, i, kāre e ākā rare i te aere ua koe, oti i rēira, tōpāpā, aere māi na au i te patipati, tētai ngā mea kūmara nāku, tētai ngā mea pia nāku, you know, akakite koe, I'm sure ka rekareka atu tērā aronga i te oake mai i tētai`i nāau, e tētai`i, kāre `oki i rēira e vaerua riri `oto`oto e riri mai i roto, mei tērā te tū i te aere`anga”.

She said that she, herself, has been a victim of stealing too and it has been a very frustrating experience because of the sense of loss, of having seen the fruits of one's labour, one's bananas for example, one looks at them, and is very happy and looks forward to the day of consuming them when they are ripe.

“Ko au kua tā`i`i ana au ki tēnā aronga keikeiā, e riri tē kā tae mai e Tony, kā riri koe no te mea, mē ēre koe mē vāere i tā`au pū taro, mē vāere i tā`au pū meika, tāmā i tā`au pū meika, mē akatau atu koe ki runga ē, kua `ua, tō`ou rekareka`anga ē, a tētai rā, kua kai meika para koe”.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks listeners and callers to the programme for their participation and contribution to the talkback discussion. A special thank you to the māmā who spoke very well about the two issues.

Meitaki ma`ata.



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