

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

20 January 2016 \$2 (incl VAT)

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Is Mike Henry's Tiare Taporo a death ship?

Potential passengers on the Tiare Taporo are being warned not to risk their lives until the vessel has proven its engine troubles are well and truly resolved

Rumours are rife the TT is not safe due to the extensive rust in its hull as well as the exterior. More worrying is the extent of rust within and the concern the hull in certain places is fatigued. The 52 year old vessel has a 52 year old engine that is plagued with mechanical problems further hampered by the scarcity of replacement parts.

There is talk one of the departed disgruntled unpaid crew warned people the boat was a death risk for passengers, he is reported to have said the condition of the TT was not up to a safety level to carry more than the amount of passengers it was designed to. Another story doing the rounds is an overseas engineer responding to a job offer took one look at the engine and the condition of the interior rust then immediately declined the offer and flew back to New Zealand.

While it is still fresh in our memories is the unexpected recent sinking of Malcolm Sword's barge off Mauke and the mechanical impairment due to fishing equipment getting entangled in the propeller of a Taio Shipping vessel up north that had to be towed back to Rarotonga, inter island travel is a risky business.

The repaired engine of the Tiare Taporo was prematurely celebrated last Friday, by Monday 1 January 2016 after being at sea due to the pending cyclone requiring ships to vacate the Avatiu harbour the TT began to experience more engine trouble with water getting into the engine. A source said on Monday night the engine was overheating



Mike Henry at the crane controls while visiting Canada to check out the Tiare Taporo

and it had to be turned off for cooling. While the engine had to be turned off the TT was vulnerable to drifting giving grave concern it was at risk of ending up on the reef.

The Ministry of Transport must not risk people's lives and give the TT a variation to carry any more passengers than the international approval till it has proven reliability carrying just cargo. One observer predicts the Mike Henry fantasy venture is a monumental disaster waiting to happen, any overloading of passengers will put them at risk with a repeat of the Tonga ferry disaster that resulted in 74 passengers perishing at sea when the Princess Ashika sunk on 19 August 2009. Six days after later the Tongan Minister of Shipping resigned and a resulting Court trial convicted five people of manslaughter and jailed.

Claims Mike Henry made about his dream boat the Tiare Taporo (TT) to score a lucrative shipping contract and a secret over generous \$200,000 advance from the Cook Islands Party government four months before the contract commencement continues to be shrouded in malicious revelations that continue to cast criticism, allegations of high level corruption and scandalous embarrassment on his friends in government.

It seems there is no end to the compounding misinformation that has become the focus of a criminal investigation by the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) who is being assisted by the Police and New Zealand fraud expertise. In September 2015 minor shareholding Director of Pacific Schooners Limited director Mike

Henry claimed the assistance from government in the form of a tailor crafted contract for PSL was justified because most of the 23 people who invested \$1.6 million in this venture were Cook Islanders.

Without the consideration of due diligence Government took Mike Henry's claims in good faith and proceeded to pander to his whims and fancies, even the Prime Minister Henry Puna who is Mike Henry's wife's uncle heralded the news the outer islands shipping woes were about to be resolved. Unknown by the public at the time Puna's the announcement of a \$1.5 million shipping subsidy was secretly intended for PSL.

Mike Henry who was canvassing local investors used this confidential information to

continued next page

From page 2

give weight to the new venture and solicit funds. Even when PSL was not even a legitimate company the Office of the Prime Minister's CEO Liz Wright Koteka prematurely announced that PSL were eligible to be recipients of the subsidy, this sent a soft message even though PSL was unregistered and the TT had not been sighted in Cook Islands waters the controversial Mike Henry had the confidence of the government.

Despite the TT not being a passenger carrying vessel Mike Henry convinced his government it was equipped to carry 130 passengers which was a key factor in PSL being awarded the tailor made contract of \$7,500 a day. According to Maritime Cook Islands Ltd who conducted the survey of the vessel in Canada in June 2013 the Tiare Taporo is approved to carry 12 passengers.

As it turns out the Ministry of Transport says that's the international approval, domestic shipping can have a different approval.

Ever since the TT left Lunenburg, Canada on the 9 July 2014 it has been hampered and dogged with engine troubles. Built in 1963 in Canada it underwent a three year long refit before it set sail for the Cook Islands. Director Garth Broadbent penned an article that was published in the CI News on Tuesday 14 July 2015 while he claimed the following, after sighting the TT in dock at Avatiu wharf one has to wonder if he was

being intentionally misleading to soften the sceptical public.

"In her normal trading configuration we expect we will carry nine crew and 30 passengers in bunks with the aft area air-conditioned and the forward 'Tere cabin', naturally cooled. In special operations such as that required for Te Maeva Nui, she can accommodate up to 75 people in

It seems not only has Mike Henry duped government but also those who parted with hard earned cash they invested in the TT.

bunks and has the deck space to carry a considerable number of additional deck passengers safely and in relative comfort."

It seems not only has Mike Henry duped government but also those who parted with hard earned cash they invested in the TT.

Looking like a rust bucket the 52 year old TT's appearance in itself is a contradiction of the lavish claims Mike Henry and Broadbent have propagated. The new captain Kim Smith recruited the assistance of a gullible Mike Tavioni to conduct a public relations promotion of the virtues of the TT on behalf of Mike Henry and the owners.

In an all out effort to silence the Schoonergate critics they both embarrassed themselves by the continuation of misinforming a

now a sceptical public who have smelt the rat and are annoyingly irritated and increasingly intolerant of Mike Henry's politically supported antics.

For Tavioni to parrot Smith's misleading technical clap trap to justify the over abundance of rust that grows by the day is hideous and totally misleading designed to gag the critics, sorry

here about the silly attempt to claim the critics are on the wrong track, Tavioni and Smith are definitely not even on the track.

Any more public relations stunts by Mike Henry's PSL must be taken with a grain of salt, no longer can the public take PSL and Mike Henry in good faith, he has yet to earn that privilege, even the burnt former Finance Secretary Richard Neves will adhere to that.

Should the TT eventually be given the stamp of approval by the Ministry of Transport to conduct a domestic shipping service all potential customers must be warned to demand evidence or statutory proof they are insured for full refunding in the event cargo is lost at sea due to sinking.

Without a single day of working history PSL must do the hard yards as Taio Shipping has had to over more than 20 years in shipping before they can earn the stamp of "in good faith."

Tavioni but you are making a fool of yourself. Tavioni talks about a voyage last year when it hit a submerged iceberg at six knots that only caused a small dent. Yet Broadbent wrote the TT had been in dry dock for three years before it sailed for Rarotonga.

No more space will be made

- George Pitt

An extract from the internet

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Taking stock after Victor...



Fortunately, Cyclone Victor sidestepped the Cook Islands except Palmerston.

It is a timely reminder to us not to be complacent. In the past, February has spawned damaging cyclones. Make sure you have the following items on hand:

- Torches and candles to see at night.
- Battery operated radio to hear the latest news.
- Food and water that you can store without refrigeration.

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Maggie calls for Demo Unity

The highest polling candidate (498) in the history of Cook Islands politics, One Cook Islands George Maggie is willing to mediate to bring unity to the self destructing fragmenting Democratic Party. Currently being torn apart by their very public squabbling through the media the Demo leader William Smiley Heather has characteristically retreated into his cone of silence as advised by his chief advisor and CEO Eddie Drollet.

If there fails to be decisive intervention the Demos are destined to remain in political purgatory till kingdom comes. Tupapa's action man MP Maggie calls upon the Demos to put an end to their infighting and crippling division and get on with opposing government. "The public is funding them to be an Opposition to the Cook Islands Party Government but instead they are wasting the tax payer's money opposing themselves," stated Maggie.

Maggie strongly suggests the Demos need the OCI more than ever, "They thought they were smart but pushing Teina and I aside, they never shared the Opposition budget of \$202,000 with us but we do a lot of work to challenge to Government, in and out of parliament."

Despite the lack of funds and access to government resources Maggie has maintained his commitment to serving practically in his constituency, he says government's budget for the Opposition office needs to be split three ways. "There are three political identities now so the money should be shared based upon a per member allocation."

Under the current allocation each MP in opposition would receive \$18,363 for their Party; this would mean OCI would be allocated \$36,727 with the rest going to the Demo Party. Maggie said he would be happy to be provided with an office at the Ruatonga building.

Maggie said "Now the Demos want us to rejoin them but look at them fighting, why would we



George Maggie calls upon the Demos to stop their fighting

want to go back to join them, the Bible tells us 'a house divided against itself will not stand.'

Unity is crucial to unity according to Maggie who said many Demos had approached him to stand as their candidate for Tupapa in the next general elections, even he stand as an OCI/Demo candidate. If that is to ever happen he said they need to sort out their differences.

"Division brings defeat, so why would I want to bring defeat upon myself?" Maggie said while Smiley may be suited to being the leader of the Democratic Party the Leader of the Opposition is a totally different ballgame, "It's as different as soccer and rugby."

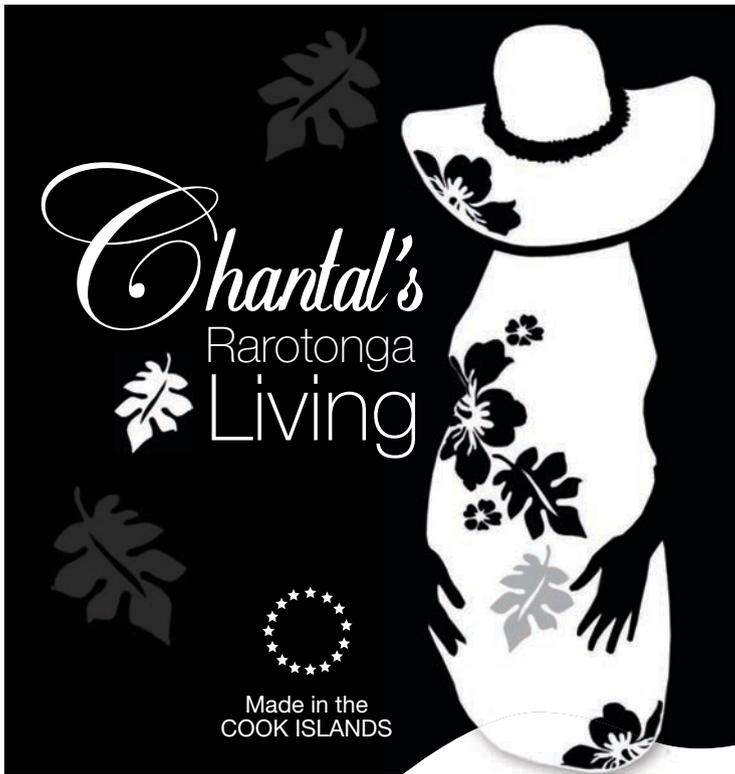
Maggie is making the bold suggestion that Teina Bishop should be the Leader of the Opposition, "I don't say this disrespectfully but Teina is very experienced and a good debater in parliament, he can unify the divisions and lead the team."

Maggie also pointed out the Vaipae/Tautu by election in Aitutaki was gifted to the CIP because of the infighting and divisions in the Demo Party, "The public opinion of the Demo Party is down," said Maggie as he pointed his right thumb downwards. - George Pitt

Cyclone Victor aftermath Monday



Seen at Avarua showing the rock swashed up near Trader Jacks. Photo by Poko Utia



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Writ filed to compel government to release information on expenditure

On Monday the Democratic Party filed an application for a writ of mandamus with the High Court seeking to compel the Government to release information related to Unauthorised Expenditures. Arriving at the High Court were Democratic Party Leader William "Smiley" Heather, Deputy Leader Captain Tama MP for Ngatangia, Selena Napa MP for Titikaveka and James Beer MP for Murienua. Captain Tama and James Beer spoke on behalf of the Party.

Since 2011 up to the present day the Government has failed to report properly and fully to Parliament all Unauthorised Expenditures, even though such reporting is mandatory under the Constitution and has occurred.

For the past 8 months responses to requests for information to the former Financial Secretary Mr Richard Neves on Unauthorised Expenditures have not been forthcoming. As a result, an Official Information Act (OIA) request regarding all Unauthorised Expenditures made pursuant to Article 70(3) b for the 2014-2015 financial year was filed with Cabinet Services and subsequently another OIA request was made for Unauthorised Expenditures for each financial year since the Government has held office beginning in 2011. Each of these requests to date have been ignored.

As a consequence, this application for a writ of mandamus was filed in the High Court.

The writ of mandamus is unprecedented in many ways it is the first time in the Cook Islands that a writ of mandamus application has been filed for expenditures made in Cabinet and Executive Council. It is understood that such an action is also unprecedented in the Commonwealth and in particular unheard of in New Zealand (where OIA and Freedom of Information Acts have been operating for years) that an application for a writ of



Arriving at the High Court, Leader Smiley Heather, Deputy Leader Tama Tuavera, James Beer and Selena Napa. *photo by Poko Utia*

mandamus has had to be issued after Ombudsman's ruling to release this information has been defied, which is a serious indictment on this Government when the Cook Islands has proudly claimed to have pioneered this mechanism in the region. We are adamant that the law has been broken, not just once, but multiple times.

The non-disclosure to Parliament and the expenditure excesses beyond the limits imposed by the Constitution is one area. It is a basic principle of our democracy that when you spend outside of Parliamentary authority that you have an obligation

to inform Parliament of this expenditure. The Constitution is very clear about this. This has not occurred in the last 5 years and as Parliament rarely sits we have been forced to use another avenue of recourse and that is the High Court. As soon as the information becomes available we will be able to finalise our Judicial Reviews and establish the extent of government unauthorised expenditure, whether the Government was authorised to spend outside of Parliament's authority and also to other issues as to whether it was qualified to transfer between vote items, or make payments to individuals from public accounts,

convert government charter flights for private use and make large expenditure decisions days out from a General Election and never report this expenditure to Parliament.

There is no good reason for the Government to withhold this information and the continued denial of this request only fuels our concern that there is something manifestly wrong and that the Government was all along aware of exactly what they were doing and hoping that they would not ever need to explain this to Parliament and to the public of the Cook Islands.

- Democratic Party Press Release

Cyclone Victor aftermath Monday



Seen at Social Centre Nikao. *Photo by Poko Utia*



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Tourism roll out new brand

The 2016 New Year sees Cook Island Tourism roll out its first global brand positioned on the tagline 'love a little paradise'. Cook Islands tourism has taken on a new creative identity inspired by the beauty of its landscape and the innocent, earthy and playful character of the people of the Cook Islands. The designed is aimed at cutting 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 issues of low awareness for the destination.

Taking a deeper look at the strategy, the new brand seeks to differentiate the Cook Islands from its key competitors and raise awareness with a visitor segment identified as Soft Explorers. Soft Explorers share common attitudes and behaviours when choosing holiday destinations. They 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.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation Chief Executive



Halatoa Fua, Karla Eggelton and Metua Vaiimene

Officer Halatoa Fua said "targeting this market segment is important for the Cook Islands to grow the value of tourism as opposed to volume. Unlike other islands, we can't keep adding flights and new resorts indefinitely. Sustainable growth for us has to come by attracting tourists who spend more on-island without alienating our traditional market base.

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 become a huge resort in a paradise that rest comfortably and hassle-free while enjoying

not the scenery, but also the hospitality of its people, culture and local traditions.

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.

Director of Sales and Marketing Karla Eggelton said "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 easily implemented by all to make it work, including airlines,

wholesalers, travel agents, sales ambassadors, tourism industry and all members of the Cook Islands community"

Australia leads the way with the first fully branded campaign for the year showcasing the new look and feel; other markets will follow. Eggelton is looking forward to working on the next phase of the brand rollout. "While the current activity is driving awareness at the top of the sales funnel, once we've got their attention our communications will focus on giving these potential visitors the reasons to commit the perceived extra time and money it takes to visit the Cook Islands. This is the next step in our plan.

Letter to the Editor

Rasmussen reason for Demo failure

Former leader of the Democratic Party Wilkie Rasmussen's public media outburst against his own Party serves no purpose other than to denigrate himself and exhibit the perception he is a poor loser. His harsh and derogatory criticism of Albert Nicholas is a desperate attempt to shift the blame for the failure of the Demos under his leadership to win government to anyone but himself. Rasmussen simply is a loser, not once but many times over and losing in politics

anywhere in the democratic world is terminal.

Rasmussen's legacy is that on the brink of ascendancy he led the Democratic Party into political purgatory and the current leadership shows no signs they will climb out of their depth of political suffering.

A political novice he might be but when Albert Nicholas had his chance to play on the political chess board he out manoeuvred his competitors in full view in slow motion over four weeks. Guided by his committee in full consultation

with the Party leaders Nicholas surprised many by engaging in smart politics.

Unlike Rasmussen, Nicholas is willing to take advice from those who have RAPPAs best interest above all else. The simple fact is that it was Rasmussen who sent the Demos in the political wilderness not Albert Nicholas. Rasmussen had no strategic plan to retain or win the four Northern group seats; this was the catalyst for the Democratic Party losing the very winnable 2014 Elections.

The Demos have yet to face

the pain of an election autopsy and bring closure by facing the reality of their failure. It is more than obvious the Demo Party has serious leadership issues that are turning supporters away in droves. Under the current leadership and administration they are visionless and despite the corruption that characterises the Cook Islands Party government, the Demos are at risk of being overtaken by the One Cook Islands movement at the next general elections.

Former Demo

Congratulations to Mrs Jolene Anne Bosanquet

By Courtney Matai

Congratulations to Woman of the Month for January, Mrs Jolene Ann Bosanquet who is known as Jolene. She is an only child to parents Joe and Kay Bosanquet who are from England (Father) and Northland New Zealand (Mother). Both Jolene's parents lived in the Cook Islands from 1973-1982, residing in the village of Arorangi where they were owners of the Arorangi Beach Motel. "My Parents were hard workers, had a good work ethic, regarded community and service a priority. My School Headmistress focused on developing my strengths in leadership, organisational and communication skills", says Jolene.

Jolene lives with her Husband Peter Heays who is very supportive and beloved children Michael and Luana, as well as Bill and Alan who are "such awesome people", she says, and loving grandchild Stella and another one who is on the way. "I have resided with Peter in the Cooks since 1986 and am a PR, since 1989". She first lived here in 1973/1975 with her parents, with annual visits in the interim 10 years from 1976/1985. Therefore she has had an association of 43 years with the Cook Islands.

Eleitino Paddy Walker and Linda Kavelin Popov were just some of the many people who have inspired her to be the best that she can be, to lead by example, to believe in herself and to act on opportunities. Her hobbies and interest also include sailing, reading, writing, house renovations as well as being helpful.

Jolene Ann Bosanquet gained her University Entrance

in 1970 followed after by ATI Secretarial Training in 1971 and qualifications in Hospitality, Tourism, Communication, Marketing, Management, Journalism, Life Couch and Counseling from 1973. Her beliefs and spirituality include Christian up-bringing, but she has also explored other religions and has settled on believing in One God as well as being respectful of all faiths based on the phrase "Do unto others as you would do unto yourself. Jolene has been involved in the Community through local activities in Takitumu primarily, Rarotonga sailing, Hash House Harriers, and church involvements where she has attended CICC, Catholic, Baha'i and New Zealand Anglican. She was a Brownie in New Zealand and is a proud supporter of Te Maeva Nui, Orama, Little Angels, Manuia Tamariki, Royal Polynesians, Highland Paradise, PPSEAWA CI, CIBPW, Virtues CI, Te Ipukarea Society, member of CIVS, CILMS, PTI, CIBCF, World Vision, Greenpeace, Royal Forest & Bird.

Groups and Organisations that Mrs Jolene has participated/ become a member of in are, Rarotonga Sailing Club, where she was a Life member, past rear commodore, active sailor, ongoing supporter of commodore Heays, Virtues Cook islands-where she was a co-ordinator and trainer, PPSEAWA CI-where she was a patron, past VP, Secretary, Chair of Peace Council, International Ambassador of Peace, PPSEAWA International liaison, Paddy's scribe and CIBPW- where she was a past president, secretary, international Liaison General Member of CIBCF, CILMS, CIVS,



Woman of the Month for January, Mrs Jolene Ann Bosanquet

PTI, CICOSO and Hash House Harriers.

A few virtues that she finds is most important to her is being trustworthy, truthful, kind, responsible, forgiving, committed to various causes, and being a caretaker of the planet. Her most memorable experiences include being a mother, getting married to her husband Peter at Manuia Beach, first time seeing Aitutaki Lagoon, working and learning from

Paddy Walker, Peter Heays and Luana Scowcroft, being a part of the Environmental Campaign 'Save Our Suwarrow' and watching the next generation take on the world and former staff in management roles. Goals include to walk the talk and lead by example, to leave the ladder down for others to climb up and to tread lightly on the earth, as well as to be a great mother, grandmother, wife and friend.

Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 13JAN 2016

Common language mistakes

It was another quiet day on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 13th January 2016.

Although listeners were invited to ring in and given the opportunity to choose, or introduce a subject for talkback discussion, no one called.

Therefore in the absence of a talkback article for that day, Te Kave Korero brings this article by presenter, Tony Hakaoro, to highlight another issue relating to the Cook Islands Māori language as used in the country at present.

Kia orana. I have stated previously that as the presenter of Te Kave Korero on Radio Cook Islands, I personally prefer to speak in Māori, although, on occasions in the past, I have spoken in English here and there on the programme.

As a Cook Islander, born and bred in the Cook Islands, and having resided and worked overseas for a number of years, I am a very proud Cook Islander, proud of my Māori language, culture, heritage, arts and traditions. Indeed I am very happy to be back home and so privileged to be the presenter or host of Te Kave Korero programme.

Being an advocate of our language I should set out for the benefit of readers of this article, and others, that I am passionate about the language. I am a former tutor of Cook Islands Maori at the University of Auckland and at Massey High School and Rutherford College, in Auckland.

I am also a former interpreter at the Ministry of Justice and a former translator at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in New Zealand.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Auckland, majoring in Pacific Studies, with a minor in Cook Islands Maori.

When I'm on radio I feel very proud, energized, committed and overwhelmed because it is the ideal opportunity for me to engage in my language and its various dialects.

However I also find it very challenging because I often hear mistakes in how Maori is spoken.

One of the common mistakes I often hear is the use of the so called word 'kaomani'.

I should point out first that before moving overseas years ago, I have never heard of, or came across, the word 'kaomani'. I believe 'kaomani' came from 'kavamani' in the last 25 years or so.

It seems to me that 'kaomani' was being used or spoken because speakers were simply too lazy to say or pronounce 'kavamani' properly. Interestingly, a quick research shows that 'kaomani' does not appear in any of our language dictionaries.

We, fluent speakers of the language, should be aware or appreciate that the word 'kavamani' is a transliteration of the English word or noun 'government'.

Please note, it is not a 'coined word' as some of us would describe it, but rather a transliterated word. In other words, 'kavamani' is derived or created from the word 'government' and although it's written no way near the source word, it is however spoken, pronounced or sounded as close as possible to the sound of the English word.

Some classic examples of 'transliterated' words, to help us appreciate them in our language, are:

Maori	English
motoka	motor car
tini	tin
kiro	kilo
matini	machine
mataro	matlow
tipunu	tea spoon
maire	mile
roia	lawyer
riona	lion
taika	tiger
erepani	elephant

In these examples, one may have recognized that the word in Maori, is written, pronounced or sounded the same as its English origin. In other words, the way it is written or spoken, is as close as possible to the English word, hence its description, a transliteration, not a coin word as some of us would say or describe it.

And speaking of a coin word, let us look at three examples of such words, as the distinction between the two, a transliterated word and a coin word, would become obvious.

Maori	English	Description of the coin word
pairere	aeroplane	a boat that flies
puakaoa	dog	a pig that barks
puakatoro	cattle	a pig that has thorns

While a transliterated word is written or pronounced as close as possible to the English word, a coin word, on the other hand, is created which more or less describes in Maori the meaning of the English word.

While I accept that both 'kaomani' and 'kavamani' are used interchangeably these days I personally still prefer using 'kavamani' verbally or in written works.

I guess at the end of the day what matters most is the meaning of one's communication and use of words and others' response or ability understanding that communication.

So if one utilizes 'kaomani' as opposed to 'kavamani' I suppose that is totally acceptable given how language have progressed and changed over the years.

After all, language, like culture, is an evolving or revolving matter and new words will always come into the language, for example, words like 'roro uira' for computer, 'pare kumete' for helmet, 'kupenga tairi poti' for purse seining and several others.

Our language is beautiful, our culture is rich, our art and tradition is unspoiled - they make what and who we are as Cook Islanders.

We must be proud of simply being Cook Islanders because we are unique and there is no other language or culture in the world, as rich as ours, as we see them through our own eyes.

Stand up and be proud of your language and of being a Cook Islander.

Meitaki maata.

Te Kave Korero thanks Tony Hakaoro for writing and providing this article.

Ideas for healthy lunch boxes

The foods you pack for your child will give them the energy and key nutrients they need to take on the second half of the day. Eating healthy food helps students think, concentrate, behave and learn better leading to better grades.

Think about what your child likes to eat at home and try to translate that into a lunch box option.

1. Base lunches around sandwiches. Try different breads such as French stick, wholemeal pita, Turkish, rolls, flat bread, panini, naan/roti and wraps. Crackers, pizza, cabin bread make a nice change

2. Concentrate on savoury fillings for sandwiches; cold meat, cheese, tinned fish, peanut butter, hummus, grated carrot, lettuce, cabbage, tomato and other salad fillings. Keep sweet sandwich spreads such as jam, honey or chocolate spread

to no more than once a week.

3. Keep food small and manageable. Bite sized sandwiches, fruit cut into small pieces, vegetable sticks and cherry tomatoes are more likely to be eaten than larger food items. Avoid packing too much food into the lunch box – too many choices are overwhelming and it will only come back untouched

4. Water or nu is the best drink. Sweet drinks such as soft drinks, fruit juice and flavored milk contribute to weight gain and tooth decay. Include a frozen water bottle in the lunchbox over summer to keep food chilled and fresh.

5. Don't forget some vegetables and fruits. Try carrot or cucumber sticks or putting in a handful of cherry tomatoes or some corn. Use fruits and vegetables that are in season

6. Last night's leftovers in a



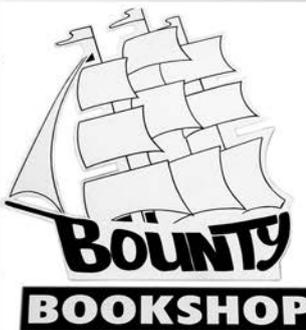
container with a small spoon can make a welcome change to the parade of endless sandwiches.

7. Other foods to include chestnuts, popcorn, peanuts, dried fruit, Maniota uki, etc. Muesli bars may appear to be healthy, but many are too high in sugar and fat. Look for bars with less than 600kj and less than 3 grams saturated fat per serve.

Ditch the junk

Junk food slows us down. Foods such as chips, sugar added and soft drinks, pies, sweet biscuits, instant noodles, sweets and lollies, muffins and cakes, doughnuts, etc should be left out.

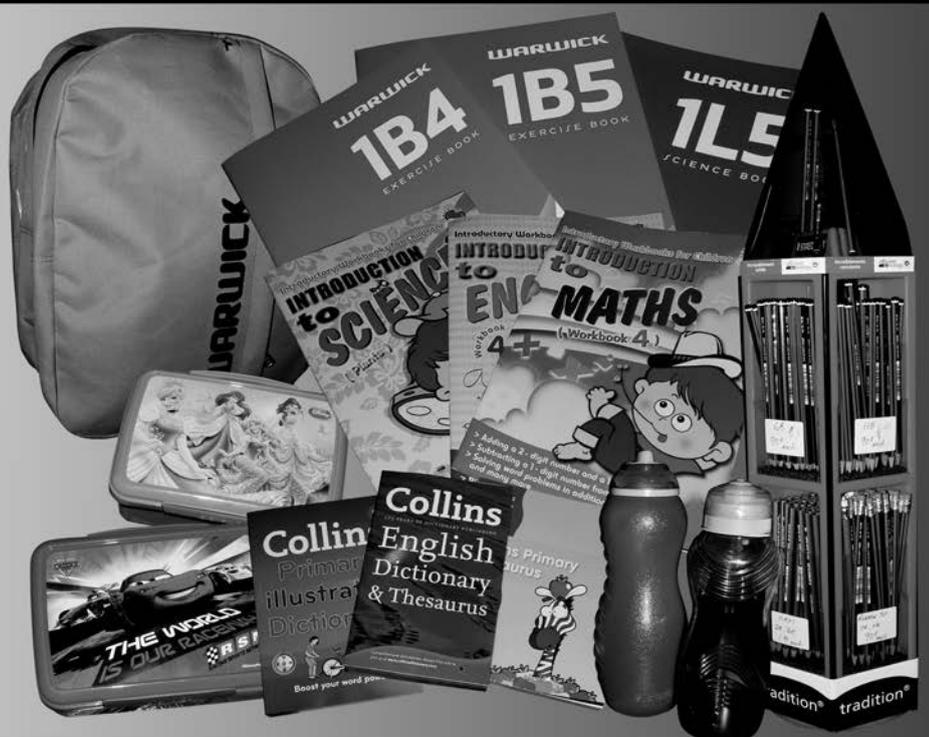
Every school is required to have a healthy food policy. Check with your school about their policy.



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Happy New Year 2016! Among the many items on your "TO DO" list, Back to school preparations usually tops the list for many parents, as it comes with a lot of expenses.

Whether it's the first day of kindergarten or the last year of university, getting your children ready for Back to School is often stressful. It is a good idea to start planning ahead and have your finances secured.

BSP understands this, and gives you a solution to ease the stress and ensure that your children are off to a good start this year.

If your child is travelling off the islands to study, get them ready for the trip, the boarding fees, and their simple comforts away from

home.

If you have need to purchase text books, uniforms, a laptop or need additional cash for your child's pocket money when they are off to university; A BSP Personal Loan can help get everything ready and prepared in advance.

A BSP Personal Loan can also help you host a small farewell party to wish everyone a good year ahead.

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an ideal solution for all your Back to School needs.

Those working with a public, private, or government institution and have been employed for over a year can easily qualify. BSP Personal Loans have a fast turnaround and the interest rates are competitive.

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To apply you will need to complete a Loan Application Form which is available at BSP Branches and also on the website: www.bsp.co.ck. It is important that you attach the following documents to your Application to ensure the application is processed,

1. Three recent payslips
2. Letter of confirmation from employer
3. S u p e r a n n u a t i o n

Identification or latest statement

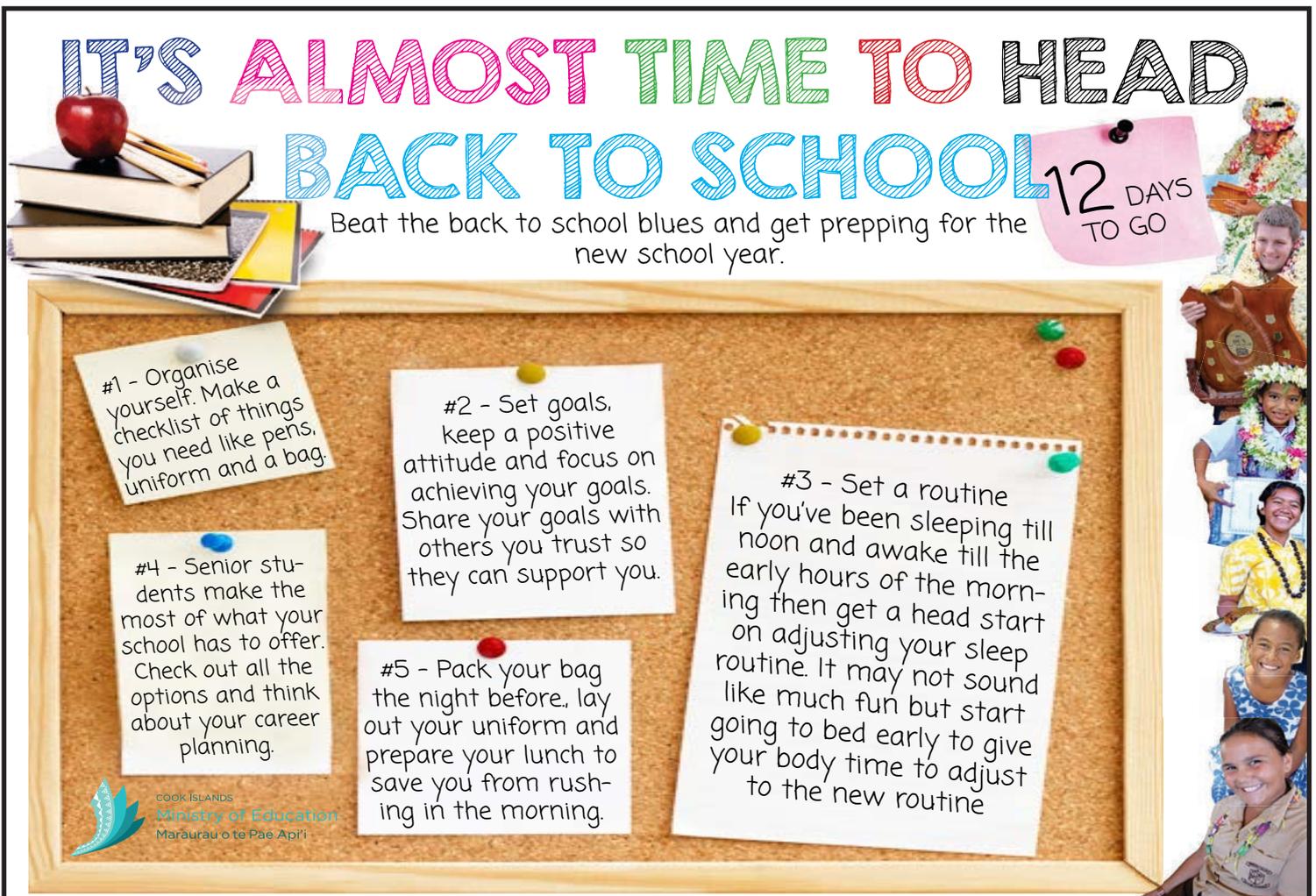
4.A form of photo Identification, E.g. Passport or driver's license

Applying for a Personal Loan is an easy straight forward process. There is no security required, except providing information on your income and credit history with respect to any other loans and repayment capacity.

For more information

For further information please speak with your Relationship Manager or Call our Customer Service Centre on (682) 22014 or Email: BSPCookIslands@bsp.com.pg, visit our website:

<http://www.bsp.co.ck/Personal/Loans/Personal-Loan.aspx> or visit the branch.



IT'S ALMOST TIME TO HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

Beat the back to school blues and get prepping for the new school year.

12 DAYS TO GO

#1 - Organise yourself. Make a checklist of things you need like pens, uniform and a bag.

#2 - Set goals. Keep a positive attitude and focus on achieving your goals. Share your goals with others you trust so they can support you.

#3 - Set a routine. If you've been sleeping till noon and awake till the early hours of the morning then get a head start on adjusting your sleep routine. It may not sound like much fun but start going to bed early to give your body time to adjust to the new routine.

#4 - Senior students make the most of what your school has to offer. Check out all the options and think about your career planning.

#5 - Pack your bag the night before, lay out your uniform and prepare your lunch to save you from rushing in the morning.

 COOK ISLANDS Ministry of Education Marāurau o te Pae Api'i

Back to School

School starts back on February 1st. Schools are open for new enrollments on the dates and times shown below. Any queries please contact the school or the Ministry of Education

Arorangi School 20008	9am - 2pm	28th Jan
Apili Nikao 22710	9am - 12pm	25th - 29th Jan
Avarua School 27320	8am - 12pm	27th - 29th Jan
Apili Rutaki 20111	9am - 12pm	22nd, 25th, 27th, 29th Jan
Apili Te Uki Ou 23509	There are no new enrollments for Grade 1-6. The ECE Centre can still take new enrollments. Please contact teukiou@oysternet.cook	
Blackrock ECE 26456	There are no new enrollments but you may visit the Centre to list your child for later in the year.	
Imanuela Akatermia 23668		
Nukutere College 26110	12pm - 3pm 9am - 3pm	25th Jan 26th - 29th Jan
Papaaroa SDA School 22850	9am - 12pm	25th - 29th Jan
Takitumu School 23340	8am - 12pm	27th - 29th Jan
Titikaveka College 23016	9am - 2pm	25th - 26th Jan
St Joseph School 26111	9am - 12pm	25th - 29th Jan
Tereora College 23819	New enrollments 18th-21st Jan 9am - 2pm Y12 & Y13 course selection 25th Jan 9am-2pm Start Dates Y10, Y11 & Y12 1st Feb 8.30am-1pm Y8, Y9 & Y13 2nd Feb 8.30am-1pm Full School 3rd Feb 8.30am-3pm	



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Back to school!

By Norma Ngatamariki

The school holidays are almost over, kids, so you might want to enjoy the last days of freedom while you still can. It's never too late to start preparing for a new school year, though. You are going to need a whole heap of things before you walk into a classroom. Stuff like stationary (where you buy a whole lot of stuff at the beginning of the year and then lose all of it in a month), uniforms (those pesky outfits. But look at the bright side, you don't have to worry about what to wear the next day) and school bags. I think the best thing about the beginning of a new school year is buying all the goodies because it feels like a fresh start. If you didn't do too well last year, you could make a big improvement in 2016.

Bounty Bookshop was always my go-to place for any of my

stationary needs. If I needed a new bag, I would pop around to CITC Main store or the Surf Store across from the Avatiu Harbour. I always had a thing for Billabong school bags. Or, if you're looking for a much cheaper alternative, Vonnia's is just the place for something convenient. Buying a new school uniform is always a hassle, especially when you go shopping with your mother. My mum never trusted me when I went looking for a uniform, because I always bought my blouses two sizes too large (maybe I just wanted to make a fashion statement). Tuki's and Vonnia's are always guaranteed to have a large number of blouses, dresses skirts and shorts in an assortment of sizes from schools all around. I tried not gaining too much weight during my school years so that I wouldn't have to buy a completely new uniform set. It worked out pretty well for me.

If you have your license and are starting to drive to school, PLEASE be careful! I know it's exciting getting to drive and showing off that you can (but, believe me, it gets old pretty quick) that it's so easy to speed off and have an accident. People want you to actually make it to school without a hitch, so please be wary.

Some of you may be starting at a new school, which is always a scary experience. But it's also something to look forward to. My transition from primary to secondary schooling was a fairly easy one because I was

surrounded by friends who all transferred to Tereora College with me. If you're going to an entirely new school by yourself, then don't be afraid to put yourself out there and make new friends. You are bound to find someone who has the same hobbies as you and watches the same television series. That's somewhere to start. Oh, and if you're scared of any teachers don't be. Sometimes, your preconceptions are worse than actual reality. Respect your teachers and they'll respect you.

All in all, have a great school year in 2016!

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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 15 Jan 2016

Port exempting berthing fees?

The decision by the Ports Authority exempting the Tiare Taporo from paying berthing fees at Avatiu harbour was the subject of talkback discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 15th January 2016.

All callers to the programme expressed disappointment and disapproval of the Port Authority's decision.

Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said that he had contacted Papa Tapi Taio, owner and director of Tapi Shipping and had invited him, and his son, Josh, onto the programme to discuss the exemption, but both declined the invitation.

Hakaoro said also that he had contacted Bim Tou, Head of the Ports Authority, but said that to be fair to Tou, his request or invitation for an interview on Te Kave Korero, did not reach him (Tou) as he was on leave that day, Friday 15th January.

Callers views or opinions in Maori are transcribed below for readers to follow.

"Happy New Year ki a koe. Tena porokaramu naau, te taiku mai na koe, te aronga tutaki, te aronga kare e tutaki. I aku, eaa i akapera ai teia angaanga. Eaa e kore, me ka tutaki, tutaki te katoatoa. Ko tetai aronga ua, free ua ratou, e ko tetai aronga i reira, te aronga e angaanga nei i runga i to tatou enua. No reira kare au e mataora ana i tena mea. Tetai tu rai e, e ture ke rai to tetai aronga, e ture ke rai to tetai. Te aronga kimi moni, ka papaia, e ko tetai aronga, free ua ratou".

"Eaa i maaniia ai tena Harbour Board no tatou? Me akara atu au, kua papaki tai ua tena angaanga. Ko te aronga e rave nei i te angaanga i to tatou enua, ka tutaki. Ko tetai aronga aere ua mai, a, ka aere ua ratou i reira, free ua ratou. Eaa ia akonoanga mei te reira".

"I aku, e ngari ake i te takore i tena Harbour Board. Eaa te puapinga o tena Harbour Board, naai ratou e tutaki ana? Na tatou na te aronga tutaki tero. Te riro nei tatou i reira ei takinokino na ratou. Kare e tano ana, e ngari i te takore i tena Harbour Board no tatou".

"Papa Tony, kia orana koe. Ae, teia pai i raro i te uapu, no ai tena pai? Te karanga ra oki tera Papa inakonei e, akakore i to tatou Harbour Board, kare, toku manako eiaa e akakore i to tatou Harbour Board, to tatou ava, eiaa e akakore. Ko mea te ka akakore, ko tera pai ra, me kare ai e tutaki ana, kikaia atu ki te moana, tiriaia atu ki te moana, kare oki a ia e tutaki no te mea,

pouora tatou pouora, mei te akaoro motoka rai, everybody got to pay their licence ea? Ko tena pai i reira ka tutau ua a ia ki raro i te uapu i reira, kare a ia e tutaki, eaa ia?"

"No reira paa ka free ua tona pai i raro i reira, ko Papa Tapi i reira, ka tutaki a Papa Tapi i tona".

"I toku manako, me kare a ia e tutaki, kikaia atu tena pai, apaina atu, kimi atu i tetai ngai tutauanga nona, tutau atu i tona pai ki reira, eiaa e tutau ki raro i te uapu o te katoatoa".

"Ae, taku oki ia e akara atu nei au, aere mai i reira, it's who you know ea? Me ko koe te pu, kare koe e tutaki i toou. A, ko tetai aronga i reira, ka tutaki koe".

"Akakite atu ki tena tangata nona tena pai, e taviviki i tona pai i te apai atu ki tetai ngai, eiaa i raro i te uapu o te katoatoa, apai atu ki tetai ngai free".

"Ae, ko teia pai i raro i te uapu, no ai tena pai? Te karanga ra oki te ra papa inakoanei e, akakore to tatou Harbour Board, kare, toku manako, eiaa e akakore i to tatou Harbour Board, to tatou ava, eiaa e akakore. Ko mea te ka akakore, ko tera pai ra, me kare a ia e tutaki, kikaia atu ki te moana. Tiriaia atu ki te moana, kare oki a ia e tutaki, no te mea, pouora tatou pouora, mei te akaoro motoka rai, everybody have to pay their licence ea? Ko tena pai i reira ka tutau ua ki raro i te uapu i reira, kare a ia e tutaki, eaa ia?"

"I toku manako manga manamanata te iti

tangata i tena tu akonoanga mei tena. Tera ua, me kare a ia e tutaki, kia kikaia atu tena pai, apaina atu, kimi atu tetai ngai tutauanga nona, tetai ngai free, me ngai free tetai tana i manako, apai atu a ia ki reira tutau atu ai i tona pai ki reira. Eiaa e tutau ki roto i te uapu o te katoatoa".

"Ko taku oki ia e akara atu nei au, aere mai i reira, 'who you know' ea? Me ko koe te pu, kare koe e tutaki i toou, me ko tetai aronga i reira, ka tutaki to ratou". Akakite atu ki tena tangata nona tena pai, e taviviki tona pai i te apai atu ki tetai ngai, eiaa i raro i te uapu o te katoatoa, apai atu ki tetai ngai free".

"Kare takiri e tano ana teia akonoanga. Tera ua, e tata i tetai pepa, me kare, e ringi atu i a Mike Henry kia tiki i tona pai e apaina atu ki tetai ngai".

"Akakite atu au ki a koe, e tuatua tika teia. Mei roto mai i a Me, toku pati uaanga i a Mike Henry kia interview au i a ia i runga i teia porokaramu, e nei, kare ra a ia i pau mai ake i taku patianga. As far as I'm concerned, kaimoumou taime. Kaimoumou taime kia tauturu te Kavamani i teia taeake. Te pati nei au, aere mai koe ki runga, akamarama mai koe i te au mea e tupu nei, tae mai ki teia ra, e kaore, e kaore na to matou reo Araura ai. Kare, kare takiri ana pauanga".

Te Kave Koro thanks all callers to the programme for their views and contribution to the discussion.



Cook Islands Herald Issue 800

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 18 JAN 2016

Understanding cyclone bulletins

Arona Ngari, Director of Metrological Services, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Monday 18th January 2016.

Tropical Cyclone Victor, slowly moving away from Palmerston Island and which brought rough seas and strong winds to Rarotonga over the weekend, was naturally the subject of discussion.

Ngari reported in Maori that at 2.00pm on Monday, Tropical Cyclone Victor was approximately 250 miles south of Palmerston Island, and about 300 miles north of Rarotonga, and was moving south at about six miles an hour, and strengthening, that at 11.00am earlier in the day, the wind was about 50 miles an hour at the centre of the cyclone, and at times, was getting up to 100 miles an hour. And as it moves slowly it could easily pick up strength and strong winds.

“I te ora 2 i teia ra, i teia avatea, kua kitenai mai a Victor, mei tetai rua anere rima ngauru maire i te tua iku o Pamate, aere mai rai tera, mei tetai toru anere maire i te tua parapu i a tatou i Rarotonga nei, te neke marie nei teia ki te tua tonga, mei tetai ono maire i te ora, e kua tupu akaou mai tetai maroiroi no teia uriia ko Victor, koia oki, i nakonei i te ora ngauru ma tai i te popongi, kua rauka i a ia te matangi, e rima ngauru maire i te ora, vatata ki te mata, e tetai au taime, ka taeria ki te tai anere maire i te ora. E, i te mea oki ra e, te neke marie nei teia uriia, e tuatau i reira teia nona no te akapakari mai i tona turanga matangi i a ia e neke nei”.

He added that the bad news was that, Victor was intensifying but, the good news was, it was slowly moving, and predicted, that it would go south of Niue, closer to Tonga, then further towards the south.

“E, ko te nuti kino, kua pakari mai a Victor, inara, te nuti meitaki, te nekeneke marie atu ra a ia, tamanakoia nei e, ka pati a ia ki te tua tonga o Niue, at least ka vatata atu a ia ki a Tonga ma, e oti, aere atu i reira ki te tua parapu, i a tatou e noo nei i teia ra”.

Ngari said that when cyclones move slowly they intensify and get stronger. When they move fast they weaken quite quickly.

“I teia au uriia, me aere marie ratou, e tuatau i reira tetai no ratou i te akamaroiroi mai i a ratou kia meitaki atu to ratou turanga. I a ia e neke marie nei, e tuatau teia no te akatumutumu i a ia. Me viviki ra a ia i te oroanga, ka pou vave te ao, so, ko tona turanga i reira teia, i a ia e neke nei i reira ki te pae moana”.

Ngari stated that warm ocean causes cyclones to build up strength and become stronger, that if the ocean temperature is 27 degrees, a cyclone will definitely form anywhere. The ocean then becomes like a petrol tank, that it gets stronger as it moves slowly, and if it moves quickly, it will run out of breath, weakens and would not be able to be identified as a cyclone.

“Kia marama tatou, ko tetai apinga puapinga roa atu no teia au uriia i te akaketaketa i a ratou, akamatutu i a ratou, ko te maana o te moana. Kua kiteia mai rai, ko te moana, me e rua ngauru ma itu tikiriti a ia i te maana, ka tupu tetai uriia, ki tetai ua atu ngai. Kua riro te moana i reira mei te tangika penitini rai no teia apinga ra e, me aere marie taua, ka akakiki atu a ia ra e kia maroiroi mai a ia, e tae ua atu ki te tuatau ra e, me oro viviki a ia, kare e roa ia, pou te ao, me pou oki i reira te ao, kua topa ki raro, kua paruparu i reira, kare e kitenai atu i reira e, e uriia teia”.

“I te akapapaanga i te au uriia no te category, me tupu ake tetai kou reva kinokino, ka taviriviri te matangi, takapini i tetai mata, mei tetai rua ngauru maire, me kore, toru ngauru maire i te ora. I teia mataingi nei ra, kua akakiteia i reira ra e, e matangi ririnui, te reo papaa, strong winds, strong wind warning”.

Ngari explained that cyclones are categorized according to the power or strength of the wind at the center, or eye, of the cyclone, as follows:

ma rima maire i te ora, ki te a ngauru ma itu maire i te ora. Ko te akamataanga teia o te category one”.

Winds between 48 and 63 miles an hour is classed as category 1 also.

“Te matangi papa kino, ka aere mai i reira a ia mei te a ngauru ma varu, ki te ono ngauru ma toru, e category one rai teia vaito”.

Category 3 - wind speeds between 64 to 79 miles an hour.

“Kia tae mai i reira e, maata atu i te ono ngauru ma toru, kua karangaia ra i reira e, e hurricane force winds”.

Category 4 – 80 to 120 miles an hour.

“Ko te akamataanga teia o te category four, mei te varu ngauru maire i te ora, tae atu i reira ki te anere rua ngauru tuma. I tetai taime ra oki, e akaaiteia na teia ki te matangi ririnui roa atu, ta matou oki e karanga nei ra e, e varu ngauru maire i te ora, tetai taime, ka taeria atu no tetai tuatau poto, ki te tai anere maire i te ora. Kua akatakaia i reira teia au uriia i reira, e category four”.

Category 5 – 120 miles an hour or more.

“Kia tae atu i reira ki te anere e rua ngauru tuma maire i te ora, kua kite tatou i reira e, ko te category five teia e orongaia na te ingoa”.



Passing Cyclone Victor Storm surge at the Boiler in Avarua. Photo by Poko Utia

Miss Cook Islands Natalia Short humbled by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

On December 8-11, 2015, the 23rd international conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent took place in Geneva, bringing together the states parties to the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and partner organisations. In addition other statutory meetings took place; the general assembly of the international federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as the council of Delegates which brings together all Red Cross and Red Crescent National societies, their secretariat and international Committee of Red Cross.

Our Miss Cook Islands, Ms Natalia Short was very fortunate to attend all three meetings as youth Ambassador of the Cook Islands accompanied by the Secretary Generals Worldwide were encouraged to send a youth to participate in the decision making processes of the Movement.

Ms Short expressed that the conference was an eye opener and to realise the magnitude of the humanitarian services that the Red Cross Movement delivers worldwide was just mind blowing. I never really understood what the Red Cross was all about; at first I thought they just provide first aid learning about the Movement during the Miss Cook Island Competition was great but to be

in these meetings and witness how this great organisation works, hearing stories from disaster zone to war zone was just an astounding experience. Although the disasters of other countries are incomprehensible to us here in the Cook Islands, this conference has made me realise that we are a blessed country and we can do our part to alleviate human suffering all over the world. The movement's success is also its volunteers who are most valued. It is humbling to see how many people, businesses, organisations around the world donate whole heartedly to the movement financially or in kind.

Each country that attended had a youth representative and within the meetings were Pacific Region side meetings every morning. Ms Short was also chosen to deliver the climate change statement on behalf of the Pacific Region youth at the general debate of the international conference. This was a capturing moment for Natalia as the youngest speaker, she delivered the Pacific message to a packed auditorium of world leaders of the Movement and States Ambassadors as all cameras zoomed in on her. She feels that the voice of the Pacific youth was heard loud and clear.

At the youth side meetings Natalia also learnt from many countries the various projects



Natalia Short. Photo by Poko Utia

delivered in youth development. Road Safety was one that caught her attention amongst others and one she would like to promote and even help out with current systems in place.

As a highlight of the conference Ms Short also performed a Cook Islands dance and was joined in by all the Pacific representatives at the conference.

Her message to the people

of the Cook Islands is "let's get behind this great Organisation by supporting our National Society, the Cook Islands Red Cross. Our support will also contribute to the Movement's global efforts in reducing human sufferings around the world. Register as a member of this worthwhile organisation; I am proud to say that my family and I have become registered members".



Tourist at Betela on Monday watching the stranded Ocean Fresh Longliner Wairau. Photo by Poko Utia

Dream inspires traditional costume

Natalia Short's winning traditional costume Te Rito o te Moana (resources of the land and the sea) was designed by a team of local Cook Islander designers who pooled their expertise and resources to create this two layered costume.

The outer layer is an elegant formal tapa (bark cloth) gown with a tapa frill around the edges. The front of the gown is decorated with large tapa flowers with coconut centres and outlined with dyed black Ka'a (coconut fibre), smaller black kaka shell flowers and woven raurau (pandanus) flowers.

The inner costume is a halter top and skirt made of pipi shells, parau shells and polished pataapuka seeds. The flowers are made of tapa and outlined in natural or black sinnet. The colour of the front of the costume is black, white and gold while the back of the costume is restricted to white and gold.

The headdress is a detailed turban made of tapa, woven raura with pipi and parau shells topped with a fan of rito.

The traditional materials used were sourced locally with the pataapuka from Atiu and tapa from Atiu, Rarotonga and Fiji. The concept for the costumes began with a dream Jane Ruebena had a sometime ago which resonated



Natalia Short and her winning Traditional Costume

with the theme for the costume "gift from the land." The dream lead to the choice of colour and the idea of movement for the costume. Dreams are often spring boards of inspiration for local Cook Islands designed.

The dream led to the colour palette of brown, white and gold as well the formal/elegant tapa gown to contrast with

movement of the modern inner garment of seeds and shells. Sourcing sufficient material was challenging and overcome by pooling the resources of each team member. Shortage of materials leads to re-distribution or substitution with the more plentiful materials on hand.

All the decisions were discussed by the team who Jane

describes as talented creative individuals. The abundance of good ideas was also challenging and keeping close as possible to the original concept assisted the decision making.

The outstanding winning result is a testament to the talented and committed team who worked together through all the challenges.

Uni Time

By Teherenui Koteka

This week marks the beginning of the leaving process, that sad yet joyous time of the year when our friends pack up their lives and move onto the higher things in life ... university time. It seems like only yesterday we were all children and now the time has come for the birds to leave the nest and learn to provide for themselves.

I myself am in my final year of college life and already I feel the nerve racking feeling of my departure quickly approaching. However it is this feeling that keeps me excited and eager to take the leap and leave next year. When I asked those leaving about how it felt to be going to pursue higher learning I found a fairly common answer, "it is pretty scary." This seems like a fair answer considering leaving the island means uprooting your life to take on a completely new one. I myself have always been one to get excited at the idea of university. I am that kid that has his/

her whole life planned out before everyone else has. Before this year the fear of leaving for university has never faded me, but as the New Year begins I am reminded that at the end of 2016 I will be the one departing the shores of our beautiful paradise to take on the scary truth of the outside world. Of course I have to remind myself that this fear of leaving is not rational. I must remind myself that I have worked a good 6 years to get to the place that I am now, a place that seems secure enough to pursue my dreams.

Whenever I feel overwhelmed by the thought of beginning my new scary life I stop take a couple of deep breaths and tell myself that one day it will all be worth it. This is what I urge all of you leavers out there to do. Many of you who are leaving for university may be fearing the pressures of the outside world. However I must remind you that this fear is one that we all

need to face eventually. At the end of this experience you would have grown to be a stronger more independent person. If you choose not to take the leap of faith and move onto better things, I can assure you that you will live to regret it. If you are afraid of failure just remember that it is better to go into something giving it your all and fail rather than never attempting and spending eternity regretting that decision. I have no doubt that those of you leaving will make the most of the experiences you are offered.

For those of us who are fortunate enough to be in our little paradise for a bit longer, I advise you to prepare for what next year has to offer. Go into this year with an open mind ready to make big decisions.

Finally if you have not had a hard think about what you want to do with the rest of your life, it is time to start! Good luck for 2016 guys!

How to stay away from trouble

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many of our young people nowadays are being lured into things or activities that will bring harm to themselves. We as responsible citizens of this nation should do what we could to help them.

Therefore this article of encouragement is written with the hope of assisting our young people, and also offer some guide to helping others also in HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE during this New Year and beyond.

In John 10v.10 Jesus said Satan comes “..to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly.” Furthermore, Isaiah 59v.19 says that “..When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.”

The main scripture reading for this article is Psalm 1v.1-3 (GN) which reads “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God, instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.” From these three verses, I want to show you three important lessons on How To Stay Away From Trouble!

Lesson 1. SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE WORLD v.1 reads “Happy

are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God.” Although we are in this world, we do not belong to this world! Jesus said in John 14v.2-3 “..I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” And the apostle Paul said in Romans 12v.2 “..do not be conformed to this world.” I John 2v.15 and 17(b) “If anyone loves the world and the things of it, the love of the Father is not in him..” James 4v.4 reads “..whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes an enemy of God.” Anyone who continues to remain in the world, and does what is not right in the sight of God, is committing a sin before God. In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah; and the great flood during the days of Noah, people refused to repent and to separate themselves from the things of the world, so they perished. Romans 6v.23 reads “..the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Noah and his family were saved! Lot and his daughters were saved! But for Lot’s wife, the love of the things of the world was too strong on her, so she was also destroyed! Jesus said in John 16v.33 “..in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Some people might say, ‘I can’t get away from my old habits of



drinking, smoking, partying, and so on. I can’t change my ways!’ Know this, ‘if God can change a murderer like Saul into a new person, then God can do the same for you!’ James 4v.7, 10 says that if you “..submit to God and resist the devil, and the devil will flee from us...and if we humble ourselves in the sight of God, He will lift us up.”, and out of our negative situations. Remember that “God never allow us to be tempted beyond

our ability to overcome those temptations. But He provides a way of escape for us!” The apostle Paul in Romans 8v.31 said “If God is for us who can be against us.” In order for us to stay out of trouble, Lesson 1 is we must SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD!

Next week I will continue with Part 2 of this article on How To Stay Away From Trouble. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te arua.

A baby Ace for Andy

By Tavita

It's time for the Australian Open again. On Monday the first major celebrity event of the year begins in Melbourne.

For taking part in tournaments like this, the top ranking players earn countless millions of dollars a year.

They fly round the world non-stop making similar millions in appearance money.

And their job is playing tennis.

But it's clearer than ever before that it's really very little to do with tennis.

It's all about celebrities.

WARMING UP

A ten second interview prior to going on to the court.

Enter court bearing enormous bags of stuff

containing huge amounts of enormous stuff.

A wave of the arm which is not bearing the enormous bags with the huge amounts of stuff.

Collapsing into an enormous armchair before turning to the enormous bags and extracting several bottles of bottles of stuff from which they proceed to take some huge great swigs.

Extracting a couple of enormous towels with which to wipe off the huge great swigs.

Arise with some enormous stretches before stepping out for the prelude to the big event.

The warm up!

Then back to the enormous armchair, before going out again to the main event.

WHACKING

a. Whack, whack, whack, punch the air and throw towels at the ball boy.

b. Return regularly to the armchair, relax and have another swig.

c. Pause to work out this evening's twitter and contemplate the wonders of being a celebrity.

d. Start all over again.... whack....whack.... whack.

d. Then it's throw yourself on the court in triumph, congratulate your latest victim, throw an arm-band into the crowd, rush out and bow to all the fans, gather up your enormous great bag, scribble a few autographs, dash off to the post-match interview, try out your twitters, and depart for the hotel after another sort of hard day's work.

I exaggerate just a little a tiny little bit!

RANKING LIST

So if it's all about being a celebrity, who's at the top of the ranking list?

For the first time, all top ten places are occupied by one person

He also occupies the top 700 British Ranking Lists and the top 10,000 Scottish ones.

Andy Murray.

BBC Sports Personality of the Year, featured in a dozen tales on their tennis page last week, solo winner of the Davis Cup against Belgium (who?) and the only celebrity bothering to be part of the Davis Cup this year.... and don't forget the Hopman Cup where he starred with whosit and whatsername.

And, what's more, in an adulatory sidebar article, a chap of devotion to the causes of refugees, feminism, his brother, dogs, his wife, his sense of humour and his defiance of terrorists.

Surprise! Surprise! Welcome to majority of mankind.

No surprise!

But what was really surprising was the extra feature he offered himself.

He did this by reminding us that he was about to win the world's fatherhood doubles championship.

BIRTH

This apparently takes place next month.

"I'd be more disappointed winning the Australian Open and not being at the birth of my child", he's quoted as saying in an announcement that he was going home early if his wife went into labour.

Andy (dropping racquet and seizing mobile): "Excuse me, umpire, I'm dreadfully sorry, but my box of people up there has just sent down a signal saying my wife's having her baby. I've got to go now!"

Umpire (sympathetically): "Jolly good. I quite understand, even though it's the fifth set and match point against you!"

TV Commentators (passing out in ecstasy): "Oooooooh! How sweet!"

Lucky old Andy.

It's a pity all of us aren't paid gigantic sums to play tennis be at the Australian Open.

We have to go to the boss and beg time off. We have to fill in endless forms even if there's an emergency.

We all hope the birth is successful and happy, like we hope the 353, 000 other ones to take place on that same magic day around the world will bethe majority of which may not be.

But, Andy mate, I'm your boss, along with quite a few million others.

Your wife's not well? Fair enough. Take time off to be by her side. Otherwise, dreadfully sorry and all that, but playing at loving fathers is something done on your own time.

We pay you for the privilege of playing tennis.

Nothing else.

You're a worker, old son, and we can't give workers time off to have fun. You're a highly-paid celebrity.

You can't have your baby and eat it, mate!



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

FOREIGN INVESTMENT OFFICER

A vacancy exists as a Foreign Investment Officer within the Foreign Investment Division of the Board following an internal promotion.

The Foreign Investment Officer is responsible for attending to investment related enquiries, liaising with other agencies, providing advice on investment policy, receiving and vetting proposals, organising monthly Board meetings, carrying out due diligence checks and providing advice on each application to the Board.

This position requires a person who:

- Has great communication skills both written and verbal
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Is computer literate and can use Microsoft Word, Outlook, Access, Excel
- Can perform tasks under pressure
- Has an understanding of the Cook Islands business environment, and
- Holds a tertiary qualification or working towards a tertiary qualification

Applications with CVs should be addressed to:

Agnes Parker
Business Trade & Investment Board
Private Bag,
Avarua,
Rarotonga

For a job description or enquiries please call:

Phone: 24296 or

Email: agnes.parker@cookislands.gov.ck

Applications close Monday 25 January 2016

Rassie exposes his inconsistencies. While Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and for Tourism he hired his papa'a mates all the time. There are other papa'a too, but where are the locals unless they are family related, what's really funny no one can aspire to his high standards except him, me and myself LOL!!



Those same high standards include the \$15 million TOAGATE debacle. Where was the solution to TOAGATE, after over 12 months as Minister of Finance what solution did he have to this Demo disaster? Zero & Zilch!



Is Wilkie former Minister of MMR throwing a bait-less hook into slow and shallow waters with his comments in last Saturday's daily tribble's lead story? He was involved in a dubious fishing exercise that had a damning audit report over conflicts of interest rivaling that of The Bishop's corruption case, but now he says that the Spanish Purse Seiners have been fishing in the Northern Cook Islands for many years. Now he speaks about it. Simply too slow and shallow.



Speculative assertions, Wee Wilky, says in his rant in the Daily. Just what in the world is that?



"Speculative" - engaged in conjecture. Assertions - Forceful fact. Perhaps an Oxymoron, where one word contradicts the other. Coming of course from the king of contradicting himself Wilkie Rasmussen. Talk about selfie articles, his latest abuse of his former Demo Party included use of the word "I" 32 times. What does that tell you about the nit picking whinger?



Word is Cabinet weren't happy Atiu's happy chappie Glassie had organised an



Anti Corruption Seminar for government MPs and officials. They couldn't see the point of the exercise, they are already well versed with the subject and proving very capable practitioners of it as well, in fact it's the Cook Islands Party badge of honour.



Good to see the Chinese donated quad bikes being used even if not productively, one CIP appointed guardian of one of the bikes children have been seen taking it for joy rides around the constituency, they don't have to walk to the shop in the morning to get the paper and donnuts a 100 metres away they go on the quad bike.



Some employers are brassed off that convicted tax dodger Mickie Enery keeps getting preferential treatment, how come they ask he can get an instant work permit for his Tiare Taporo new captain while they have to wait weeks and undergo maximum scrutiny to get urgent workers?



Witnesses said last Friday night the Police turned up to the Hula Bar after several drinkers complained the Islander Hotel was selling watered down drinks. One customer and experienced bar manager from overseas said the drinks tasted at least 50% watered down. One

drinker said after ten drinks of a certain spirit they weren't drunk so there must be something wrong with the alcohol content. As Rohan said it's all about being more entrepreneurial.



Dredging near Avana passage to make a 6-8metre gap in the fish trap, one metre deep to help flush out Muri lagoon is a brilliant idea. Whoever thought of this deserves a medal. This will of course enable sharks and large stingrays that frequently swim in and out of Avana passage to swim further around and enter Muri lagoon to investigate what tasty morsels await their "jaws." This will give adventure tourists a big, new thrill-"swimming with the sharks" just like up north! For the less brave tourists, the new game in town will be "fleeing from the sharks!"



Whisper chooks is that former Keeper of the Treasury Purse, Filchard Peeves is doing a consultancy jobbie for the IMF-International Monetary Fund, and that he may be back this way soon to poke around!



Big Red has heard chooks that soon upgrades at our airport will mean same level entry and egress into aircraft from the first floor like at overseas airports. No more climbing up and down stairs

on the tarmac. Also, due to increased aircraft traffic when Jet Star begin flying in, the Airport Authority is looking at providing more parking spaces by building an upper level of parking spaces!



Oh dear chooks the Demos are still struggling to get things right! Filing of their writ of Mandamus almost became Mandamush when there was a delay due to their office printer breaking down and being unable to print out the writ. Arriving at the High Court the famous four risked slipping and injuring themselves on the slippery front steps. Back at the office after filing the writ there came a call to return to the Court to re-file the writ but this time, properly!



Why would government bring in an Official Information Act, then promptly ignore it? Perhaps government believes the Act does not apply to them. Government has even taken to ignoring the Ombudsman's directions to release information requested under the Act. As any Judge would say, ignorance of the law is no excuse!



The Wizard's Apprentice has been strangely quiet while his master has been away touring the Middle Eastern Kingdoms aboard his Broomstick —model 777. Yes chooks, while Merlin Foonah has been in the desert casting spells, Apprentice Sparky the Clown, is unsure whether to spend his hours at the Castle juggling coins or practicing his times tables.



The Anti-corruption workshop is on at parliament chooks. The overseas consultant seems pleased our MPs want to take charge in ensuring corruption is tackled. Of course they want to take charge-to ensure none of them can ever be caught and dragged before the High Court Beak!

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet is demanding tea bags not tea leaves!

Where's the money coming from?



Mozzie

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government is having a special Executive Council meeting to approve extra money for tea bags!

Choyssa?

Earl Grey!



PUBLIC NOTICE



HEALTH SPECIALIST VISIT
Skin Specialist (Dermatologist)

The public is hereby advised that the Skin Specialist from New Zealand will be at Aitutaki Hospital on Monday 25th January and at the Rarotonga Hospital from Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th of January 2016.

If you have problematic skin conditions, please contact the team at the hospital to arrange for an appointment from the 11th – 22nd of January 2016.

Please note you will need to see our local health team first before an appointment with the Specialist.

Contact Aitutaki Hospital on 31002 or Rarotonga Hospital on 22664.

Meitaki Maata



Air New Zealand Tourism Award Categories

BUSINESS CATEGORIES

1. Accommodation - Hotels and Resorts
2. Accommodation - Self Catering
3. Accommodation - Private Holiday Rental
4. Tourism Industry Support
5. Tourism Attractions
6. Festivals and Events
7. Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services
8. Destination Wedding Planners

SPECIAL PERSON AWARDS

The two categories by nomination are:

1. Outstanding contribution to tourism
2. Lifetime achievement in tourism

SPECIAL AWARDS

There are special awards that are open to all category entries.

- Environment award
- Culture Award
- Internet Marketing Award
- Outer Islands Award
- Customer Care Award
- Family Friendly Award

SUPREME AWARDS

The Supreme Winner is selected from the winner of one of the business categories. To be determined the supreme winner, applicants must have demonstrated excellence in a minimum of 50% of the judging criteria.

Entry Instructions

We have the full application form ready for your viewing and downloading via:

www.tourismindustry.co.ck

Entrys close 1st February 2016.

All entries are confidential to the assessor team. The written application must be completed electronically and emailed to the following address: ci.tourism.awards@gmail.com.

Kia Manuia

TENDER



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Request for Tender for the Supply of Building Materials to the Northern Group Waters Project

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) seeks suitably qualified groups or companies to submit a tender for the supply of building materials. The request for tender requires that the materials be sourced and supplied to three islands in the Northern Group.

Hard Copies of the Tender documents can be obtained from the Climate Change Office at the Office of the Prime Minister, Parekura, Avarua or electronic copies from the Tender Manager.

For any enquiries please contact: Tender Manager, Mr Raymond Newnham

Email: raymond@moanagems.co.ck; Ph: +682 22317 or +682 54317.

Tenders Close: 1 pm Thursday 28th January, 2016 (Cook Islands Time).

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MPs attend Anti Corruption workshop

By Norma Ngatamariki

On Tuesday 19th, an anti-corruption workshop was held at the House of Parliament, where various Members of Parliament were in attendance. Leading the workshop was John Hyde, who is part of the United Nations Pacific Regional Corruption Project (UNPRCP). The main aim of the workshop was to lay emphasis on the importance of anti-corruption with regards to authoritative figures. According to Hyde, governments in countries within the Pacific, particularly when it comes to their natural resources such as their fisheries, must ensure that all contracts and tenders are to be conducted in a transparent way. He also goes on to explain that Parliaments often approve budgets and Parliamentarians have to make sure that they hold governments to account as well as civil service and bureaucracy. "They have to make sure that government money, which is the money of the people of the Cook Islands, is being spent openly, transparently and in the best possible way."

Hyde remarks that the Members of Parliament for the Cook Islands is reviewing a code of conduct for their own



Members of Parliament at the Anti Corruption workshop

behaviour. "This is very good practice, as most people of the community do expect Members of Parliament adhere to the highest possible standards." Hyde goes on further to explain the importance of Members of Parliament discussing what exactly these standards should be, as well as defining the boundaries of ethical conduct.

Hyde comments that over the past twenty years, there has been tremendous progress within the Pacific region. He refers to the recent example of Vanuatu, where 14 MPs' were jailed with the inclusion of the Speaker of Parliament over bribery. "This was a clear breach of ethics as well as their leadership code."

In the global organisation

of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, Hyde has praised our country for its resilience with its the anti-corruption work ethics. "We are delighted to see that the Cook Islands is one of the strongest chapters, not only in the Southern Hemisphere but in the world, for Parliamentarians wanting to take control of anti-corruption."

Brown responds to Democratic party writ

By Norma Ngatamariki

In response to the Democratic Party's recent attempt in filing for a writ of mandamus with regards to releasing information concerning Unauthorised Expenditures, Minister of Finance Mark Brown has sought to inform the public on this matter. "As far as I'm concerned, there has been no issue of expenses through Unauthorised Expenditure," he says.

According to Minister Brown, all amounts of money that have been expended by government has been authorised through the budget process, which Parliament approves or Section 70 of the Constitution which allows the Finance Minister to authorise the issue of expenditure for various activities or items.

"I can only surmise that the unauthorised expenditures which the Opposition refers to may be related to any expenditures that are in excess of the limits that have been imposed upon the government." He also states that Section 70 allows government to expend over and above the budget, but to a restriction of not more than 1.5% of the amount of appropriation for that particular financial year. "I'm confident that in the last financial year, our approvals through Section 70 did not exceed the 1.5% limit."

However, if it has been discovered that the 1.5% limit has been exceeded, then the proper procedure to remedy this is to put through a validation through Parliament approving that excess.

Minister Brown also points out that the information requested by the Democratic Party on these expenditures have been published since August 2015 within the financial reports that the government produces, under no obligation or no law. "We have taken it upon ourselves to publish all information regarding government revenues and expenditures, as well as the status of the government accounts and debts. This is all very transparent for everyone to see." He also adds that the financial reports are readily available online via the Ministry of Financial and Economic Management website. "We have itemised every authorisation through Executive Council, under Section 70 of the Constitution."

"I'm very happy to provide any information that the Opposition feels that they require." The validation of any unauthorised expenditure is not a new concept. The first budget, which was passed by the Cook Islands Party in 2011, had validated the unauthorised expenditures of the previous government who was then under the leadership of former Minister of Finance, Wilkie Rassmussen.

"This legal manoeuvre of the writ of mandamus demonstrates the absolute desperation of the Democratic Party, with regards to their lack of understanding on the financial mechanisms." Minister Brown goes on to say that this is an amateur attempt to display to the public that the Democratic Party still remains relevant.

Will the Chinese ever go home?

Do not expect the Chinese to go home once the Te Mato Vai project is completed. They know our country is “under developed” so they are going to stick around.

By Charles Pitt

Forget government guarantees and assurances concerning purse seining, Sunday flights, sea bed mineral wealth. Of greater importance is whether this government can give us an assurance that when the Te Mato Vai project has ended, the Chinese engineering company and its staff will pack up and go home.

When the Chinese President announced in Fiji last year that US\$1 billion would be made available to the 8 small island developing states who supported the one China policy, for economic development, diplomatically, it was a smart move because it ensured a continued Chinese presence in the Pacific.

Since their arrival in numbers to construct our new Court House/ Ministry of Justice building, the Chinese Civil Engineering and Construction Company (CCECC) and their staff have managed to secure and maintain a presence in this country which is beginning to resemble a form of “permanent residence.” Their seemingly permanent presence is not yet irritating because the Chinese have wisdom—they lay low, are inconspicuous, do not cause trouble, keep to themselves and for the most part are practically “invisible.”

The construction of the Courthouse was followed by the construction of the Police Headquarters then the construction of the Indoor Sports Stadium followed by Te Mato Vai.

Looking ahead, there is no major project on government's capital projects books for the CCECC or any other Chinese company to undertake once Te Mato Vai is completed. Faced with the prospect of no work, will the Chinese go home? You would think so but that is highly unlikely thanks to the Chinese President putting more money on the table in what must surely seem like a

one sided poker game.

It also suits the Chinese government for CCECC to stick around as CCECC appears to be fulfilling the role of a quasi-consulate.

The current slowdown in the Chinese economy is unlikely to affect China's overseas aid intentions as funding has already been committed and been confirmed by the Chinese President himself and to cancel the deal now would result in the Chinese President, “losing face.”

Why the delay in China allocating the funding? (the Cook Island's share is reported to be US\$128 million) Apparently it's because the Chinese government is yet to specify the criteria for use of these funds. Of interest is that funding is aimed at private sector led development projects. No doubt the criteria will specify the inclusion of Chinese companies, labour and materials.

Although no major development projects have been made public, it's no secret that numerous private sector Chinese investors and businessmen have visited and showed an interest in making some form of investment in the Cook Islands. These small groups have flown in “under the radar” and quietly looked

around for business investment opportunities.

These private sector investors from China are in most cases very wealthy or represent wealthy people and are keen to establish a presence in the Cook Islands however, their long term intentions are largely unclear.

Of interest to these would be investors is our special relationship with New Zealand which enables Cook Islanders free and easy entry into NZ. It is understandable that the Chinese would seek to exploit this relationship and its benefits.

Questions also arise as to the Cook Islands actual “development” status. Although our politicians have maintained the small island developing nation status, some would regard us as being a developed nation. However, it has been suggested that our status is actually, “under developed nation.” This is because our full development in many areas stops short due to a variety of constraints.

So, while we have developed systems and facilities for sewerage collection, waste collection, power generation, water collection, education, tourism and airports for example, we are yet to develop these to “first world” level for

instance, provide sewerage treatment and disposal systems, waste treatment and eradication/incineration systems, sufficient power for new industries, adequate water reservoirs, jobs for our educated, tourism facilities to attract 5 star level visitors and airports that can cater for increased visitor/ aircraft traffic.

In short therefore, we are “under developed.”

The Chinese know this and regard it as a future opportunity to be exploited. This is why CCECC is staying put.

By the look of it, there is enough work on our shores to keep the Chinese here for another 20 years.

And here's a final thought. In agriculture, we cannot claim to have achieved “national food security” status. While funding is available to assist in planning this falls far short of enabling growers to achieve results. For instance the funding available is less than \$30,000 and requires overseas agency consultancy (FAO) involvement. To achieve the required level of production to ensure security, may require funding in the region of around \$400,000 per grower. In short, the funding available does not ensure the objective.



In the early hours of Monday morning the Ocean Fresh longliner Wairau was stranded on the reef at Betela Arorangi with three tons of fish aboard. An attempt is planned to refloat the vessel