

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

26 February 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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4 6 25 26 29 40 18

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Drawn: 22/2/14 Draw num: 3401

8 12 15 25 26 45 SUPP: 23 28

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NZ Telecom pushed into pull out



New Zealand Telecom's bail out was signalled five years ago, winding down the legislated monopoly would provoke NZT to review their majority shareholding in Telecom Cook Islands. TCI has responded to the Government's demands for a better service at reduced rates and with further positive developments TCI is on the verge of delivering more than expected in the context of our scale of economy.

The monopoly loss and the entry of the deep pocketed Telco giant Digicel may result in a shared market devaluing TCI's net worth. Digicel's aggressive mobile telecommunication focused operation is capable of sustaining an intentional loss for several years to erode a competitor's market share and driving them out of the market. Selling out before being exposed to a forced financial alliance is an option that TNZ can not dismiss lightly.

Why would TNZ hang around while the CIP Government indecisively plays around with a proven commercial performer on the basis competitors are promising and claiming they could outperform and out deliver the current set up who have over the past decade returned over \$20 million dollars in dividends to the Cook Islands, by anyone's standards an inflated gesture for our 40% shareholding.

TNZ's commitment to the Cook Islands has been a solid and sustainable even co-operating with the minor shareholders to

invest in unprofitable ventures disguised as social responsibility. Isolated communities like Nassau and Palmerston Island are included in huge communication investments that are subsidised by Rarotonga and Aitutaki consumers. In fact TCI subsidises the outer islands to the tune of \$500,000 per year.

While TCI hasn't pumped hundreds of thousands of sponsorship dollars in response to frivolous requests for handouts from lazy sporting codes who for year after year fail to produce winning results and any marketing return for the Company, TCI has channelled huge investments into projects best described as socially responsible sponsorships. TCI is a business not a charity but endeavours to work smarter to reduce costs that are reflected in reduced fees or reinvestments in the Company.

In business terms and context, TCI has ever since the 1990s initiated under Trevor Clarke's chairmanship a concept of sponsorship that is integrated into a commercial matrix of reinvestment and social responsibility. Telecommunication improvements in the outer islands that make no commercial return or sense are integrated sponsorships that benefit a wider demographic long term.

If TCI are to be criticised, it is because they have failed to imprint and bring clarity to their business model and formula

of sponsorship to the wider audience. TCI have quietly gone about their business building local capacity and expertise without the public chest pounding boasting of their small steps of continued success.

If anyone should shoulder the criticism and blame for the perception extracting sponsorship dollars from TCI was worse than trying to get a Bank loan, it falls squarely at the door of government who want maximum returns, early payments and a better service but have failed miserably to appropriate a portion of their dividend for sponsorships.

The business deficiency of the commercially deprived political masters makes them easy prey for the marketing masters of Digicel who talk big on sponsorship in comparative terms to the present Telco provider. The political decision makers and high level officials lack comprehension depth of comparative marketing and the sophisticated compliance psychology techniques Digicel uses.

Digicel's preferred market is the third world and countries with struggling economies knowing they are lacking in high end commercial acumen and digital technology knowledge. The Cook Islands must now be listed as easy beats because it has taken Digicel minimal effort and persuasion to convert the country's financial tag team guardians and gate keepers

Minister Mark Brown and Financial secretary Richard Neves into virtually giving up the family jewels.

Are we watching a Cook Islands version of the comedy Dumb and Dumber? A third form student's analysis of Digicel's strategic expansion would indicate they target dumb countries.

Without any due diligence Brown has in his excitement revealed through his media comments the Digicel spiel that got him hooked on a quick cash buy out. Early on Brown said Digicel were back kicking the tyres but it seems they have kicked him and Neves in their heads otherwise what has possessed them to jump the gun with such irrational, insensitive and inappropriate shoot from the hip comments that don't make any logical and intelligent sense especially to the loyal TCI staff?

What are the options if TNZ want to sell their shares? How this has failed to cross the collective minds of Brown and Neves clearly amplifies a job well done by the visiting Digicel snake oil selling doctors who incidentally want a five year grace period before monopoly deregulation.

Digicel will predictably push highly visible sponsorships at the expense of socially responsible development in the unprofitable outer islands and in the frame work of profitability our worst fears of a reduction of 30 jobs will be realised. - George Pitt

The new economic model will bring divisiveness, threatening traditional values

By Charles Pitt

In last week's Herald we mentioned how changes to the tax system and other fundamental changes would impact on society and change the way we live and behave. It is considered that these changes amount to social engineering and can be seen to be part of an effort on the part of government to move the country to a new economic model.

The question is why is this being done? Who is really behind it and what is the purpose of the change? Have we reached the point where our current economic model is no longer sustainable?

In time our new economic model will probably resemble that of Australia's or NZ's or a mixture of both.

What is clear is that our government will change from that which began in 1965 as "paternalistic" (government-and the previous colonial masters- looks after everyone like a parent looks after children-providing regardless of need) to one which promotes "self reliance" (government creates an environment or society where each fend for themselves according to their means and ability). This act of reconstruction could be called "social engineering."

To achieve this, government must first wean the country off the old CIP principle espoused by Papa Albert Henry from the outset of self government in 1965. That is the principle of "inclusiveness"-the aim being to ensure everyone is aboard the Vaka and none is left behind.

Holding that principle in place for Papa Albert was the policy of government taking the lead and being the provider and care giver. For example, Papa Albert's universal pension applied no matter what your financial situation was-everyone was equal, everyone got paid the same. Papa Albert promoted a sharing, caring society where there was no social distinction between those who were well off and those who weren't. Those receiving the pension also had access to free dental care and medical care no matter what their financial circumstances.

Through this acquiescing government, MFEM has begun

dismantling the underlying structures put in place over the years by government.

MFEM's changes to law and policy have introduced "divisiveness" to counter "inclusiveness." For example, Neves has cleverly orchestrated the dubious arguments surrounding the back tax on NZ pensions setting one group of pensioners against the other. (The reason for the sudden end by government of the 17 year long no tax policy on the NZ pension has not been adequately explained). For the first time in 17 years, we are now seeing snipes between those locals that receive the higher paying NZ pension (\$1,400 plus a month) and those that do not (\$400 a month).

While local pensioner's attention was diverted, the tax free status of the local pension was removed to create a "means" test which will see more divisiveness through the creation of another two groups, those that have other means of support or another income and those that do not. Whereas previously, those who had less were undetectable, they will now be exposed. They must have an RMD number, must complete a tax return, must declare their income.

While this may be explained away as targeting the financial resources to those in real need, it is not the Cook Islands way for ordinary people to be "exposed."

Previous governments have been extremely cautious when considering the issue of "user pays." It is because in traditional society, such a concept is foreign. Water is a natural resource to be shared. People can understand paying for electricity because that is a generated resource. While there has been a charge for water since 1964, introduced at a time when NZ administered the Cook Islands, government has maintained free access to water. However, after 50 years of free water, this current government is to introduce user pays for the new water project. Again, those who can pay will be separated out from those who cannot or those who will struggle. Another example of "divisiveness."

These changes will cut to the fabric of our society in which the basic values have been

inclusiveness, equal standing, generosity, sharing and generally unselfishness. These elements form the basis of the Polynesian way.

Our society which has come to be valued by tourists as friendly, open, caring and sharing, is changing and that is evident in some of the offences occurring against tourists. If government is not seen as fulfilling a caring, benevolent and supportive role, then young, unemployed and disillusioned youth will not care either.

After 50 years of self government, it may be expected that in a modern world, our society will reach a level of maturity where people are less reliant on government handouts and can adequately fend for themselves and pay their way. However, is that what we want? We should reach our vision using a home grown economic model and not one adopted from overseas which does not factor in our

cultural and traditional elements and sensitivities. In other words, an economic model which mirrors our uniqueness as a people and society.

What of the long term future?

Expect NZ or Australia as the dominant economic partners in the region, to play a greater role in aligning Cook Islands political, economic and welfare structures closer to those countries. In time the region itself may take on new structures in a move to harmonize economies but for whose benefit, that is debatable. As the Cook Islands realizes greater wealth from its sea bed mineral resource, potentially billions of dollars, others will want access to those funds. Expect higher levels of expatriate settlement in the Cook Islands from overseas. Expect more expats in high level government and private sector jobs. The pooh bah is coming back but in a new form and capacity.



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Nearly five decades of CIP stronghold broken

Policy Triumphs over Personality



Democratic Party supporters at Murienua last Wednesday.

James Beer has broken the Cook Islands Party strong hold in the Murienua constituency, for the first time since 1965, nearly fifty years; Murienua will be represented in Parliament by a different political party.

After two previous defeats at the polls Beer the Democratic Party candidate in the Murienua by election was under no illusion anything could be taken for granted. The DP filed a petition expecting the result in the 19 September 2013 by election win by Cook Islands Party candidate Kaota Tuariki to be overturned.

But in a surprise move unprecedented in Cook Islands politics, four days before the petition was to be heard in the High Court, Tuariki resigned on 5th December. Rather than wait for the Speaker of the House Nicky Rattle to declare

the Murienua seat vacant and the Electoral Officer announce the date of another by election the DP proactively launched a series of television commercials focusing on a tax policy.

The professionally produced Good News adverts featured DP Leader Wilkie Rasmussen rolling out tax policy indicators as well as supporting the non back tax for New Zealand pensioner recipients. With funds in hand the DP reiterated their tax policy throughout the different mediums.

Four weeks from the 19th February 2014 by election date Rasmussen with drew the bombardment of television advertising to allow Beer to be the focal point of attention. The DP policy committee who had been meeting regularly for the past year approved a concise eight point tax policy on a

single page for Beer to hinge his campaign on.

Team Beer had become seasoned campaigners matured after learning crucial lessons from the two loses. Past mistakes had been analysed and solutions implemented. Their four intensive weeks of campaigning was better organised and administrated with no loose ends or deficiencies on voting day, it was well coordinated and efficiently run.

Unlike previous elections Beer, accompanied by a supporter conducted an extensive house to house visitation program talking tax policy along with local issues. The Murienua DP committee never wavered from the task of being policy focused and driven, only one public rally during the campaign was held.

The CIP committee chose a politics of personality to drive

their campaign, what may have worked in the past simply didn't stand up to the test of changing times. Tuariku's mantra of 'elect me and I'll show you what I can do' failed to impress or convince the marginal voters to buy into his vision. Holding weekly rallies on Saturdays where plenty of alcohol and food were consumed the CIP built a momentum of an "it's in the bag" illusion based on the feedback the CIP Murienua campaigners were promoting at the rallies.

As the five weeks of CIP festivities rolled out more and more within the Party were convinced Murienua was theirs by a landslide victory. While Beer grabbed every media opportunity to be interviewed or speak Tuariki shunned the many free media opportunities offered to him giving the public Beer was being media

favoured. Time and time after confirming he would show Tuariki failed to do so. Convinced he would win again but with a greater majority Tuariki and his committee lead by manager Patrick Arioka fell into the complacency that all they needed to do was wait for the polls to open.

At the third rally Prime Minister Henry Puna exhorted those in attendance to repeat the lie Rasmussen didn't support Beer and encouraged them to tell as many people possible. With no policies to take to the people of Murienua the CIP ran a campaign denigrating Beer. Everything from Beer not a Church attendee, married to a foreigner, opening his shops on Sundays, not being a son of the soil, not being a community person, not being conversant in Maori and so it went on.

Despite Beer being committed to assisting the growers of Murienua by buying their produce and purchasing them a tractor and fertiliser the CIP kept pushing a politics of personality discrediting Beer. The CIP failed to mention the donated tractor for agriculture purposes from the Peoples Republic of China was housed at a former CIP chairman's home and used by him to cut the Airport's grass as he had the commercial contract to do so.

Beer and his supporters have reduced the Kavera Meeting House's electricity bill to practically nil by fundraising and installing renewable solar

panels.

The CIP didn't have any policies the people of Murienua could relate to simply because their policy making has been advocated to the paid officials by default because of lazy nonexistent voluntary CIP executive and committee engagement. Once a brand so strong the CIP candidate could rely on that strength to guarantee a points lead before the polling booths opened.

Unable to entice a credible CIP member to stand the Murienua committee chose Tuariki a DP member believing his wide family support plus the solid CIP core would ensure the seat remained within the CIP. In effect the Murienua by election was a contest between two DP candidates polarising some hard core CIP to abstain from voting.

CIP Leader Henry Puna's compulsion to carve out his place in political history and his ambition to be his own man has clouded his embracement of the timeless political lesson his predecessors have built election victories upon. The grandmaster of electioneering Sir Albert Henry won elections on policies that tugged the hearts of the voters.

After fifty years, Politics has come full circle in the Cook Islands, deep down the masses who are now a lot more politically savvy and astute have become increasingly less tolerant of the politics of



personality that has produced nothing but a dysfunctional political environment of broken promises, discontent, distrust and scepticism to name a few.

The CIP analysis Murienua was lost because the people lied to them has to be the most misguided statement of any election result, they were so

over confident, simply politically arrogant and out played as they failed to discern in changing times the people want to be guided by policies that meet their felt needs plus the corporate good and benefit of all and not be led by personalities who feed their self interests and feather their own nests. Roll on the next General Elections. - George Pitt

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Woman of the Month



Congratulations to Mrs Mata Elizabeth Urirau Raeina (nee Boaza)

Ko toku ingoa ko Mata Elizabeth Urirau Raeina nee Boaza Toku nga metua anau ko Urirau Ngata e tangata Aitutaki, e ko toku metua vaine anau ko Taromi Ngapoe no Aitutaki e Manihiki katoa.

Toku itu matou tamariki ta to matou nga metua i anau mai, e 3 tamaroa e 4 tamaine. Kua anau ia au i te ra 22 o Me 1948 ki te enua Aitutaki i te oire ko Amuri. Ko au te rua o ta raua tamariki tei anau ia mai e to matou nga metua e ko au te mataiapo tamaine.

E nga metua ke atu rai toku tei angai e na raua i utuutu iaku e toku tuakana e maata ua mai maua. Te ingoa o toku nga metua angai koia oki ko Mehau Boaza Takai (metua tane) e tangata Rakahanga/Manihiki. Te mama ko Tepou Annie Boaza Takai e vaine pirianga Pamati, Tongareva e te Aitutaki.

Toku tuakana ko Annie Boaza tona ingoa. E toku ingoa kapiki ko Mata Elizabeth Boaza. Mei te rima ki te ono o toku mataiti kua akaruke atu au ia Aitutaki e kua apaina ia atu au e toku nga metua angai ki te enua Manihiki noo ei. Kua akamata au i te aere ki te apii i Tauhunu i Manihiki. I te mataiti 1957 kua aere mai maua ko toku papa na runga i te pai tai ki Rarotonga nei no te mea tei Rarotonga nei toku tuakana a Ani e te angaanga ra aia ki ko i te toa CITC.

Kua akamata au i te aere ki te apii, ki te Nikao Maori School mei te mataiti 1957 ki te mataiti 1962. I te mataiti 1963 kua neke atu au ki te apii teitei tei karangaia e ko Tereora College. Kua akaoti atu au i taku apii i Tereora i te mataiti 1965 e kua akamata atu au i te angaanga neti i roto i te

aremaki i Rarotonga nei i te ra 12 o Tianuare 1966.

Kua pati mai au i roto i te apii School Of Nursing e riro mai au ei Cook Islands Registered Staff Nurse i te reira tuatau. Kua angaanga pouroa au i roto i te au wards katoatoa o te are maki mei te Children's Ward, Maternity Ward, Medical Ward, Surgical Ward e te Outpatient Department.

E pakari te angaanga i te reira tuatau, me karanga au e pakari te angaanga, naau neti i akataka ia no te reira ward (eg) Medical Ward ka rapu koe neti i te akapai i te au maki kare e maroiroi no te reira tuanga, akamanea i te au roi, purumu e te mop i te taua o taau ward kia papa i mua ake ka tae mai ei te tutaka a te Taote e te au Neti mamaata.

Te tutaka ra kua aere koe kua tama i te are pai e te toilets. I teia tuatau mama ua te angaanga me akaaite ia atu ki te tuatau i akamata ei au i te angaanga. I roto i te mataiti 1985 i te marama Tiunu kua iki ia au e te Taote Don George kia aere ki Nu Tireni apii no te tuanga angaanga no te Recovery i roto i te Pia Vavai (Operating Theatre) e ono marama tutaki ia e te WHO - World Health Organization.

Teia te au aremaki taku i angaanga atu no teia tuanga nei koia oki te Aremaki Napier Base Hospital e toru marama, ki Wairoa Hospital e tai marama, e ki Taranaki Base Hospital i New Plymouth e rua marama. E oki mai au ki Rarotonga nei akamata atu rai i te angaanga ki roto i te Recovery i te tuatau o nga ra vavai koia oki te Ruirua e te Paraparau.

E i te mataiti 1986 i te marama Tepetema kua iki akaou ia



Te Vaine o te Marama Peperuare ko Mata Elizabeth Urirau Raeina nee Boaza

au kia oki ki Nu Tireni apii angaanga akaou no te tuanga o te Recovery e te angaanga katoa ki roto tikai i te ngai vavai anga (Operating Theatre) e toru marama, tutaki ia e te WHO. Ko te aremaki taku i angaanga i toku oki rua anga ko Taranaki Base Hospital i New Plymouth.

Meitaki te tu akataeake o te aronga angaanga i roto i teia au are maki taku i angaanga atu ana e tae ua atu ki te tuatau i oki mai ei au. Iaku i oki mai kua akamata au i te angaanga ki roto i te ngai vavai anga o te

aremaki i konei.

E muri mai kua iki ia au ei akaaere maata (In-Charge) i roto i te pia vavai e 8 mataiti. Pakari te angaanga i roto i te reira tuatau. Te au Specialists no te mata (Eye Specialist) no te ivi (Orthopaedic Specialist) (Gynae), ENT e te vai atura tei tae mai no te tauturu i te makimaki o to tatou iti tangata Kuki Airani.

I te mataiti 2013 Tianuare kua oronga ia mai te turanga akaaere (In-Charge) o te Geriatric Ward e naku e apai i

teia turanga e tai mataiti i topa e te tomo nei ki te rua o te mataiti.

E maata taku au iriirikapua (workshop) e tetai au Conference a te Marae Ora (Health Dept) i piri ana i te tuatau e rave ia ana te reira i Rarotonga nei i te au mataiti i topa ki muri.

Te Turanga o te Tipoti (Sports)

Iaku i roto i te apii tuatai i Nikao Maori School e rave ana te tarekareka kete poro basketball na roto i te au apii tataki tai o Rarotonga nei. Kua tomo atu ana au na roto i te tarekareka kete poro i te ngai o te centre, goal defender e te goalie.

(Softball) Pa poro rakau ki roto rai i te Apii e kua tarere atu ki tetai au apii i vao mai. E meitaki au i te pei (pitcher) e te kapo poro katoa. Iaku i Tereora College e tarere kete poro ana matou i te au tamariki tei iki ia no te kete poro atu ki te au pupu tamaine o te Tereni Puapii (Training College)

Te turanga o te oro, ko au tetai e oro ana no taku Apii Nikao Maori School no te Morgan Shield Sports i te reira tuatau, oro poto, oro roa, kavekave rakau, e te long jump, te slim ua ra oki i te reira taime.

(Tennis) Pa Poro Teniti

Tennis katoa ana au i roto i te pupu o te Oire Nikao tarere ki te au oire o Rarotonga nei mei te mataiti 1959-1962. Akamata au ki roto i te B team e pa double, meitaki mai taku paanga - neke ki te mixed double, e meitaki roa atu neke atu ki te single, tamou rai taku pa anga ki reira. Piri ana au ki roto i te karapu teniti o te B team o te Arorangi Vainetini te tuatau ko Mrs Niotangi Heather e Mrs Kauta Dean ma to roto.

Mei roto i te reira pupu kua tuku iatu au ei mix double i roto i te pupu B o te tane o Arorangi rai. Ko toku patina ko Maropai e re ana maua i ta maua pa anga. Toku turanga teia i roto i te tuanga

(Sport) tipoti.

Turanga Tarekareka Ura

Te pupu ura mua o te Nikao Youth Club ko au tetai mapu taurekareka kite i te ura tei tomo no teia tuanga tarekareka ura. Toku tuakana rai ko Annie Boaza te akaaere turu ia mai e te maata anga o te au mema o teia Youth Club. Tarekareka kimi moni ki rungai te nga pai turoto ko Mariposa e te Monterey e ki roto i te au are tarekareka o Rarotonga nei. Piri atu au ki roto i te pupu tarekareka o te Nikao Oire i te tuatau o te Uti anga reva (Constitution Celebration). E re ua ana te Nikao Oire i teia tarereanga. Te tuatau kare te Nikao Oire e tarekareka kare au i noo ua, kua piri atu au ki roto i te pupu o toku uorai enua ko Rakahanga akatere ia e Piritau Nga. Kua re tai mai te Enea Rakahanga roto i te reira tuatau Constitution.

I te mataiti 2000 kua tomo akaou matou te Oire Nikao ki roto i te tarere o te Constitution i raro ake i te akaaere a Raemaki Karati e kua autu mai a Nikao i roto i teia tarereanga. Kua piri atu au ki roto i te Nikao Oire tei mata atu i te Kuki Airani ki te Festival of Pacific Arts tei raveia ki New Caledonia.

Kua tere katoa atu matou ki tetai enua i vao mai tei karanga ia e ko Lifou. Ko teia enua ko tetai teia o te enua tei apai ia te evangelia ki te iti tangata i reira e tetai tangata Orometua ko Paoo tona ingoa no Aitutaki i te oire Vaipae

Te Evangelia

Mei toku tamariki anga mai toku aere pure anga e te noo ki roto i te Apii Sabati i te au sabati. Ko toku Papa Boaza e Diakono matutu aia i roto i te Evangelia. Mei Manihiki mai au i te noo anga ki roto i te Evangelia e aere ua mai au ki Rarotonga nei.

I Rarotonga nei noo tinamou au ki te Oire Nikao e ite au angaanga a te Ekalesia akamata ki te Apii Sabati na roto mai au i te Tapere Pokoinu no te mea e rua rai tapere i te reira tuatau; Pokoinu e Rangiura.

Apii Buka Tapu, Teretere Apii Sabati, te au irava tatau me oronga ia mai kia tamou, ka tamou rai au i taku kia mou meitaki. Mei te Apii Sabati neke atu au ki te tuanga o te Mapu, Apii Buka Tapu, tamoumou irava no te Teretere Mapu i te au Sabati tei akanoo ia i roto i te Ekalesia. Apii katoa ana au ki roto i te Brownies i te tuatau ia Mrs Mere Paitai. E maata matou i roto i te Brownies i te reira taime. Apii katoa ana au i roto i te Girl Guides i te tuatau e ko Mrs Marguerite Story te akaaere. Mataora te turanga o te Girl Guide e te au camp e rave ia ana. Kua riro mai au ei Diakono Vaine i roto i te Ekalesia. Kua akamata au i te rave i te au angaanga ta te Diakono Vaine ka rave mei te tama Are Pure i te tuatau e na matou Tapere Pokoinu te angaanga i te marama i akataka ia. Rave akoanga i roto i te Are Pure me tae ki te Sabati Pure Vaine Tini.

Maata te au akauanga a te Vainetini e tauturu ana au i roto i te Ekalesia. Kua riro ana au ei Mou Moni no te Putuputu anga Vainetini i roto i te Evangelia no tetai au mataiti i topa ki muri. I teia nei kua akangaroi mai au i

runga i te taoanga o te Diakono Vaine e kua riro mai au i teianei ei Elder Vaine, e te maroiroi nei rai i te rave i te au angaanga a te Vainetini

E Puapii Sabati au no toku Tapere Pokoinu i roto i te Ekalesia no te au tuatau roa e tae ua mai ki teia ra nei. I te mataiti 2007-2008 kua riro mai e ko au te Chairlady o te Konitara Apii Sabati o te Kuki Airani no teia nga mataiti e rua e tei ia Nikao te akaaere. E puapii maata au i roto i te Putuputu anga Apii Sabati no te au mataiti i topa e tae roa mai ki teia mataiti 2014.

Mataora au i te rave i te au angaanga no te Evangelia.

Kua akaipoipo atu au i taku tane ko Raeina Raeina. Kua aroa ia mai maua e te Atua mana katoatoa e ono tamariki tei anau mai kia maua. E toru tamariki tamaroa e toru tamariki tamaine. E tai ngauru ma iva au mokopuna e ono au ina. I Love Them All in my heart. Te nga tamaine a toku tuakana e te au mokopuna I Love them Very Much.

Ei ta openga te rauka nei iaku i te ta akaaka atu i toku ngakau i te akameitaki i te Atua Mana no te ora e te maroiroi tana i oronga mai noku e tana tiaki anga mai iaku i roto i te au mataiti roa i topa ki muri. Te karanga nei te tuatua tika i roto i te Bibilia "E akameitaki ia lehova e taku vaerua e to roto katoa iaku nei i tona ra ingoa tapu, E akameitaki ia lehova e taku vaerua e auraka tona katoa ra au takingameitaki kia akangaropoina ia. Salamo 103:1-2

Maseli 22:22 - Auraka e rave i ta te tangata putaua no te mea e putaua aia e tei tumatetenga ra auraka kia takingakino ia i te ngutupa. AMENE

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15. International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.
16. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

CIP Murienua petition expected

The Murienua by election simply doesn't want to lay down to rest, the Cook Islands Party believe they have sufficient cause to claim the winning candidate James Beer bought votes and are expected to file an electoral petition in the High Court before the cut off date on Friday. Already \$15,000 in debt from costs awarded against him for resigning four days before the Democratic Party petition was heard in the High Court, the CIP loser Koata Tuariki will need to front up with nearly an additional \$7,000 as the petitioner against Beer. Another loss in the High Court and Tuariki and the CIP will be stuck with reimbursing Beer's legal costs which could be as much as \$15,000.

With little spare funds in the CIP coffers they may have to dip into the money from the current raffle sales to fund Tuariki's electoral petition otherwise it will have to be paid for from his own depleted campaign funds. Apart from the cost of his two by



election campaigns Tuariki could be an additional \$30,000 out of pocket from the legal costs of losing petition rulings.

It was bad enough that Tuariki's resignation forced the unnecessary waste of public funds to the tune of \$30,000 for the second by election. The arson destroyed schools of Avatea and St Josephs could have done with \$30,000 of help if not them, this amount could have created five part time jobs in the struggling northern group islands.

- Geroe Pitt

Fisheries grants to thirty seven recipients

Thirty-seven fishers have been selected as recipients for small fisheries grants provided by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR). The objective of the grant scheme is to support local small scale fishing.

The grants are funded by government under a Crown payment (POBOC) from a fisheries development levy which MMR deducts from foreign fishing license fees. The POBOC also provides \$100,000 a year to the CIFA and its 19 affiliated fishing clubs.

According to the Ministry a total of ninety seven applications with a total value of \$170,000 dollars were received.

The MMR and the Cook Islands Fishing Association jointly vetted applications to decide upon a shortlist that fitted within the budget of the grant scheme. "The response was overwhelming and we have tried to cater to as many requests as possible" says MMR director for inshore fisheries, Kori Raumea.

Don Beer, the president of CIFA says it was encouraging that there is such a strong level of interest for fishing amongst our community he hopes to see some dormant boats and canoes back in the waters again. The Ministry is hoping that its next budget will have an increase in the POBOC allocation and to raise the level of funding for grants.

The thirty seven successful applicants will receive in total \$47,000 dollars. The successful recipients were representative of almost the entire inhabited islands and included Aitutaki (11), Atiu (2), Mangaia (2), Manihiki (2), Mauke (1), Mitiaro (3), Palmeston (3), Pukapuka (2), Rakahanga (1) and Rarotonga (10).

The proposals will be used for a wide variety of activities to kick start small fisheries ventures or community initiatives and included purchasing of sea safety gears, repairing boats and canoes, and upgrading fishing equipment.

Public Service Commissioner wants extra powers

Practising good governance principles helps maintain the integrity and morality of the Public Service sector giving society confidence they aren't influenced by political tampering. Not satisfied with the existing checks and balances that have evolved since the 1996 reform era, the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas is pushing an amendment tabled in Parliament (His own words) that give him the power to roll over employment contracts. Currently, once contracts have expired vacancies are readvertised to allow the position to be contestable and transparent. With his new powers Thomas is able to reappoint employees as he sees fit.

No longer will positions become vacant to test the employment market response, thus eliminating transparency and a contestable process in filling the vacancy. No longer will applicants be screened then short listed for an interview with an independent panel of three people who then make a recommendation of a two or three person short list from which the successful candidate will be appointed.

Thomas favours a new appointment process as he himself was not on the three person short list after the application interviews for the PSC vacancy. Thomas managed to persuade fellow SDA member the PM Henry Puna to appoint him as PSC.

Once again the Financial Secretary Richard Neves has dinged another decision maker, Neves has an agenda of government proofing his decisions and if the amendment is passed in Parliament, Thomas can just simply roll over Neves lucrative contract without government or political interference. The amendment also suits Puna as he can then direct Thomas as to whom to reappoint without having to undergo the current practise of transparency and contestability.

US fleet to pay \$1.9 million

The Cook Islands have agreed to allow the US purse seine fleet to fish for an additional 300 days in return for a \$1.9 million dollar payment.

The agreement negotiated by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) and the US State Department will expire in December 2014 when the current interim US fisheries treaty ends. About 1.7 million tonnes of skipjack is fished from the Pacific waters mainly in the EEZs of countries whom are Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA). Under the interim US fisheries treaty the US fleet can fish 450 days in non-PNA waters and 12,000 days in PNA waters. The Cook Islands are one of few remaining non-PNA countries with a large skipjack fishery.

According to the MMR the US had indicated that they are likely to exceed their non-PNA days and are looking to secure additional days. Under an addendum to the treaty the US purse seiners will pay the MMR around US\$5,000 dollars for every day a vessel fishes up to a combined total of 300 days.

The US treaty is normally monitored by the FFA and PNA secretariat. However under the proposed bilateral arrangement the MMR and NOAA will jointly establish an additional independent vessel monitoring scheme to track fishing days. The proposal was agreed by Cabinet after it was tabled by the Prime Minister who is also the Minister of Marine Resources. The Cook Islands has set a sustainable annual catch limit of 1,250 fishing days under its purse seine regulations. The 1,250 day limit was adopted by the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) under its Olympic quota set at its annual meeting held in December 2013 in Cairns. "The interest by the US fleet in our waters confirms that the Cook Islands has a valuable skipjack fishery" says MMR secretary, Ben Ponia.

The MMR estimates that the purse seine fishery could provide at least \$9 million dollars of direct licensing revenue per year.

Ponia says that the \$1.9 million dollar revenue generated under the 300 day agreement was not budgeted for and is additional new monies for the government coffers.

Memories of my fallen M.P. Friends

By Norman George MP for
Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

Twenty nine of my M.P. peers have passed on, I wish to share some of my experiences which I had with them to you.

I am still not finished with Papa Tom because I spent some of the best times of my life with him. He introduced me to Chivas Regal whisky and red wine! We had some great times together. I used to dread it when he went on the piano to sing. He had a heavily American nasalized sound, with a little yodelling. When you have had a few whiskies, it was always better to sing along with him.

His talents included writing and composing music. Papa Tom composed our national anthem. His last song, "te akaruke nei au i toku ipukarea", sung by Curley George was composed a few months before he died.

Papa Tom and I were special guests at Playboy Hugh Hefners private club in Los Angeles in 1984. No there were no bunnies present. I saw actor Kojack (Telly Savalas) crooning away on the dance floor. Through Papa Tom I became well acquainted with Pacific leaders like Ratu Mara (Fiji), Hammer de Robert (Nauru), Sir Robert Rex (Niue), Governor Coleman of American Samoa, Michael Somare (PNG) and many others.

Despite our political fallout; both Papa Tom and I always gravitated towards each other. I loved the old Man. I visited him in Ngatangia quite a lot. I last visited him about 3 weeks before he died. I have a photograph of him and I taken with Joe Williams a few months before Papa Tom died. I dropped a little tear as I close this chapter.

Sir Geoffrey Henry was a very talented and unique man. He majored in English at Victoria University in Wellington. He spoke polished English and Maori. What was missing was wit and humour, I never heard him crack a joke once! Everything was always straight and narrow.

He dressed immaculately and managed to suppress his grey hair right through his life. He wore a lot of jewellery. I called him Liberace, after the effeminate American star pianist, just to tease him in the House!

We had some tough fights in the House and in the letters to the Editor column. No give and takes, always knockout punches.

Surprise surprise, we are in fact related on our Mauke side. The last big punch he landed on me was to keep me out of the CIP Cabinet after the 2010 general elections. He fell for George Maggie's lies that I was recruiting CIP Caucus Members to go against Henry Puna. He rang me with the Maggie cow dung and demanded that I go and apologise to Henry. I refused. Apologies for what? They all bought the Maggie cow dung and are still getting heavy doses of it from time to time today.

I'm glad I never buckled. Look what's happened to the CIP government, today! Without Geoff, they are lost! They have no alter ego to guide them on the side.... who knows, I might have filled the gap left by Geoff if they did not do the dirty on me.

Politically Geoff devoted much of his time to erasing the memories of Papa Arapati. He wanted to take his place. It did not work. They are two different people altogether. I am not going further, this

column is not designed to hurt anyone, but to praise and remember them.

Geoff loved his rum and coke. He could sing and play the ukulele. He was one great man to be with at a party! Geoff enjoyed life to the full. To live to the 70's in a tough challenging life was a great and rewarding life for Papa Geoffrey.

Vincent Ingram was one tough character; we were born one week apart, with me older by one week, Vince was bright, intelligent and extremely capable as a lawyer and an M.P. He was something of a drama king; he would set up a crisis, then go on to meticulously and tirelessly put it all back together, then expect a pat on the back.

Vince had a hot temper but was quick to have a big laugh! You cross him and life can be hell. Vince can be a spoiler. When he lost the temporary leadership of the Democratic Party back to Tom Davis in 1983, he was hell bent on disruptions. He used Papamama Pokino to help him disrupt the Demo government.

It led to Vince subsequently falling out and joining the Cook Islands Party government. He and Sir Geoffrey Henry became very close.



Vince and I reconciled in the final years of his life, I invited him home for dinner and vice versa. I fondly remember Vince as a very talented Cook Islander.

With the right blending and grooming he would have made a good Prime Minister. Much of the major Constitutional reforms in our Constitution Act 1982 were done by Vincent Ingram, laveta Short and Paul Temm QC.

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Sammy J and Chad Chambers performing live at Rehab this Friday



Sammy J

Soul and reggae singers Sammy J and Chad Chambers will be performing live at Rehab Rarotonga this Friday the 28th. Chambers hails from Tokomaru Bay in New Zealand and Sammy J is currently residing in Auckland

New Zealand, with Australian and New Zealand Maori blood.

Although Chambers considers himself to still be a rookie as he has only been part of the music industry for 3 years after he won a National Singing competition



Chad Chambers

called Homai Te Pakipaki, he has many achievements to count for during his music career, including performing at Ragamuffin, opening for Rod Stewart, Exodus NZ, Spawnbreezie as well as performing for all Aotearoa reggae bands. He has a promising music career ahead of him and after Raro he hopes to get his album rolling on; something to look out for!

As for Sammy J, he says he has been singing his whole life, "I come from a religious family so my dad always had us singing at different church functions, my love for music grew from those early experiences as a child". Sammy J started singing and posting videos on YouTube and was soon discovered by Noah Cronin, one of the former members of Kolohe Kai and collaborated on music together. With that, he is now signed up with Dawn Raid and just recently returned from a sold out show of his own in Las Vegas, describing it as an amazing experience. He also had the opportunity to tour alongside Aaradhna and Fiji, whom he portrays as his biggest inspirations, so to share a stage with them, "was just the best!"

While both singers specialize in reggae, Sammy J's music is a little bit of both soul and reggae, "I love finding new ways to mix

the two together, and creating new sounds," he says. Sammy J's music is inspired by anything that is different and creative and Chambers finds inspiration based on what is happening around the world; such as war and political drama, "my most recent track is named CHILDREN, which is about letting our children know it's not good at hit them nor is it good to touch them," Chambers says. Being dedicated to speak out for children, Chambers says one of the major highlights of being involved in the music industry is being involved in the ARAS project, to help stop child abuse.

With this being their very first trip to the Cook Islands, both singers are looking forward to visiting beautiful Raro and entertaining us with their music. "Myself and Chad are so excited to be coming to Raro and sharing our hearts with you guys! Please come you won't regret it!" Sammy J says. From here Sammy J will be making a big move to the States, LA for a few months to continue touring with Aaradhna and Swiss, where he will then go on to release his next EP.

With a huge year planned ahead for the two budding musicians the pairs Rehab gig is something to look out for - check out advert to find out more about ticket sales!

A vibrant poster for the 'Rehab Presents Sammy J and Chad Chambers Live' event. The poster features a blue and yellow color scheme. At the top, there are photos of Sammy J and Chad Chambers. The text 'REHAB PRESENTS' is in a yellow box. Below it, 'Sammy J - WITH - Chad Chambers' is written in a stylized font. The word 'LIVE' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below that, 'Friday 28th Feb' is written. The event details include 'DOORS OPEN AT 10PM', 'PRE-SALES TICKETS \$25', and 'DOOR SALES: \$30'. A yellow starburst contains the text 'Book your spot on the Rehab Party Bus to the gig! PHONE 29700'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'FOR MORE INFO:' with the phone number '(+682) 55517' and the email 'party@rehabraro.com'. The website 'WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REHABRARO' is also listed. At the very bottom, there are logos for 'DAWN RAID ENTERTAINMENT', 'RAROCARS', 'REHAB', 'SOON BOON', 'STAIRCASE RESTAURANT & BAR', 'NATION', and 'URBAN NATION'.

It is for “others” ... to work it out!

By Howard Henry

At that time I was living in Kaikohe, Northland, NZ and running my Video Shop business called “Howard’s Video Centre”. I was also Chairman of the Northland Labour Party and I was the Northland Rep. on the NZ Labour Party Council in Wellington.

In addition to that, I had been confirmed the previous year to be the Labour Party Candidate for the Hobson Electorate. This was all the rural area surrounding, but not including, Whangarei. It was at this time that David Lange was leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister of New Zealand.

But then Lange stood down and was replaced by Sir Geoffrey Palmer as both Labour Leader and Prime Minister. Sir Geoffrey was a real intelligent guy. Genuine, hardworking and meticulous. But as a leader and a Prime Minister, he simply did not have it.

While Sir Geoffrey Palmer did nothing wrong, his public image was not good and so Labour supporters started losing confidence in the man. Once public confidence in a politician is lost ... it never comes back and so Sir Geoffrey’s popularity, and that of the Labour Party, started a down-ward spiral into a bottomless “political pit”.

Into 1990 ... those of us on the Labour Party Council and those in the Labour Party Caucus combined in an all out effort to halt the slide in the polls and to turn Labour’s fortunes around.

As the months went by, Labour continued to slide and soon reached around 20% in the polls. The lowest the Labour Party has ever been. Translated to seats in Parliament, meant that not only would Labour lose the General Election later in the year, but about 40 members of Caucus would also lose their seats. They were going to get “kicked out” of Parliament. This would leave Labour with only 15-20 seats out of just over 100 MP’s.

It was now obvious that Labour was in for an absolute

hammering at the hands of the voters. Forget about winning the election. It was now all about political survival.

In the end, it was the Labour Party Caucus who took it upon themselves to change the Leader in a last ditch effort, not to win the election, but rather, to stop the rot and to try and prevent total annihilation at the upcoming General Election.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer tendered his resignation with dignity and with grace. There were tears shed in Caucus. There was no anger or bitterness because all those Caucus members knew (including Sir Geoffrey) that a leadership change had to be made for the sake of the Labour Party.

For us meeting on the Labour Party Council at the same time, the situation was exactly the same. There had to be a change in the “Parliamentary Leader” otherwise the Labour Party was going down the “political toilet”.

There was only one nomination in Caucus to be the new Leader and Prime Minister of New Zealand. And that was Mike Moore. He was tasked with the job of leading Labour into the election campaign and to prevent a total annihilation at the hands of the voters.

With three months to go until the election, the whole Labour Party political machine was cranked up a gear as we went in “full force” behind Mike Moore.

I didn’t bother campaigning very much in Hobson at all. I was never going to win that seat anyway. I was on a hiding to nothing. I told my Hobson supporters I was going to help “the fight” in Auckland. They said “very good ... we understand – go” ... and so I did.

I teamed up with the Auckland Campaign Committee as we threw everything, including the kitchen sink, into electorates such as Roskill, Manurewa, Papatoetoe, Glenfield, Waitakare, New Lynn, Auckland Central, Otara, Mount Albert and Mangere. The “fight” was to

hold what seats we had and our team of workers and supporters rose to the occasion.

This happened because Mike Moore scrubbed-up really well. He led from the front. He acted like a leader and he acted like a Prime Minister.

Mike Moore stopped the rot. And then he turned the tide. Labour started coming up in the polls. We were still well behind. But at least the gap between us and National was closing.

Labour lost that election of 1990. But it was not a rout. The party was not annihilated. A change in leader three months before the election ensured this did not happen. Labour was beaten but not disgraced.

Six months after the election, Mike Moore stepped down as leader of the Labour Party and was replaced by Helen Clark.

A similar situation happened in Australia last year.

Julia Gillard and her Labour Government was on the rack. Public confidence in her as Prime Minister was on a downward slide to the extent that the Labour party was now staring down the barrel of certain election defeat later in the year. More than half of the Labour Caucus were going to lose their Parliamentary seats. And so the inevitable challenge to her leadership came.

While the Palmer-Mike Moore change-over was civil and done without internal bloodshed, such was not the case in Australia. The Labour leadership change there was a bitter and brutal affair. But in the end there were enough numbers in the Labour Caucus behind Kevin Rudd to force a change over.

So Kevin Rudd became the Labour Party Leader and Prime Minister of Australia. He was tasked over a 4-month period, to change Labour’s fortunes around, regain lost ground in the polls and to give Labour some sort of chance of winning the General Election.

Kevin Rudd stopped Labour’s declining popularity and come election time there is no doubt Labour performed far better

than expected even though they were beaten. That defeat was no where near as bad, as it would have been if Julia Gillard had still been leader of the Party.

In both cases I have mentioned above, the ruling political party went into election year with a very unpopular leader as Prime Minister and down in the polls. They were certain to lose the upcoming General Election with a large number of Caucus members clearly aware they were going to lose their seats and get “kicked out” of Parliament.

And so both Caucus, in two different countries and at two different periods of time, did exactly the same thing. They changed their leader, and in doing so, they changed the Prime Minister of their respective countries.

But in both cases, these two parties left their changes too late. Three months for Mike Moore and four months for Kevin Rudd was not long enough.

Had the changes been made 6-8 months out from the election, then the result of both General Elections may have been different. The final results of both elections would have certainly been a lot closer than what they were.

I reckon Mike Moore would have got up and won.

Can any parallels be drawn between Sir Geoffrey Palmer and the Labour Party Government of New Zealand in 1990 ... to that of the Cook Islands Party Government here in 2014?

Can any parallels be drawn between Julia Gillard and her Labour Party Government of Australia in 2013 ... to that of the Cook Islands Party Government here in 2014?

To answer these two questions ... is not for me to say.

But rather, it is for “others” ... to work it out.

The “others” being ... the present members of the Cook Islands Party Parliamentary Caucus.

Following defeat in the Murienua by-election, there are now only 13 of them left.

Kura Tauī'anga Reva

February Mitiaro Special Edition Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

Rauti Para Tablet Training in Mitiaro - the Young, the Wise and the Gallant....

Our climate change team in collaboration with the ICT division of the Office of the Prime Minister embarked on the island of Mitiaro from the 3rd to 7th of this month to continue the Rauti Para tablet training in the Southern Cook Islands. We didn't know what to expect from the island of Mitiaro being the island with the smallest population of less than two hundred in the southern Cook Islands.

The team was welcomed by the Mayor Fred Tereva with only a handful of people in attendance. After the formalities, morning tea was served before Pua Hunter took over with the tablet training. Amazingly, when the class started there were twenty five participants who registered. The following day word got out how exciting the training was which brought another five to make a total of thirty participants with twenty six tablets to share around.



Day 1 with a handful at the opening session with two of the oldest participants Mama Temou Raeputa and Aunty Nane Pokoati Hodson, both in their 70s 3rd - 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

The age group ranged from 18 to 74 including two hearing and speech impaired participants who attended the full duration of the training. The Rauti Para who attended were also caring for their grandchildren who also became regular attendees at the training.



Grandparents at training while caring for their grandchildren in Mitiaro 3rd - 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

There were lots of questioning according to trainer Pua Hunter with much enthusiasm from the chatter and laughter from the participants as they explored their way around the tablet laughing at their mistakes and just enjoying this piece of technology that otherwise is alien and inaccessible to them.



The young, the wise and the gallant in full attendance 3rd - 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

The young and the elderly learning together is a rare sight nowadays, as usually young people are way ahead of technology in comparison to seniors. But on Mitiaro, young people are as keen and enthusiastic about learning as the seniors. A keen participant, Ms Toru Ngatoko reported that this was the best training she ever attended as usually it is only the school kids who receive computer training. She emphasised that

Kura Tauī'anga Reva

this is the type of training needed for the Pa Enea as this new skill learned will open up new horizons of opportunities to people and assist them to improve their lifestyle through this communication channel and information accessibility. We were over whelmed with the response from the people of Mitiaro and grateful for the opportunity to help make a difference to their lives. In that we have the SPC EU GCCA: PSIS and the SRIC programmes to thank for funding this project in partnership with Telecom Cook Islands and the ICT division of OPM.



Class in full swing on Mitiaro (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Our other regular attendants to the classes in Mitiaro 3rd – 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Outdoor class behind the Admin building at the Mitiaro harbour 3rd – 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Since the wifi at the training hall was weak, it was decided to move the class to the Admin building where the Telecom office is situated. This decision paid off as everyone was able to connect to the net whilst at the same time enjoying the cool breeze from the ocean.

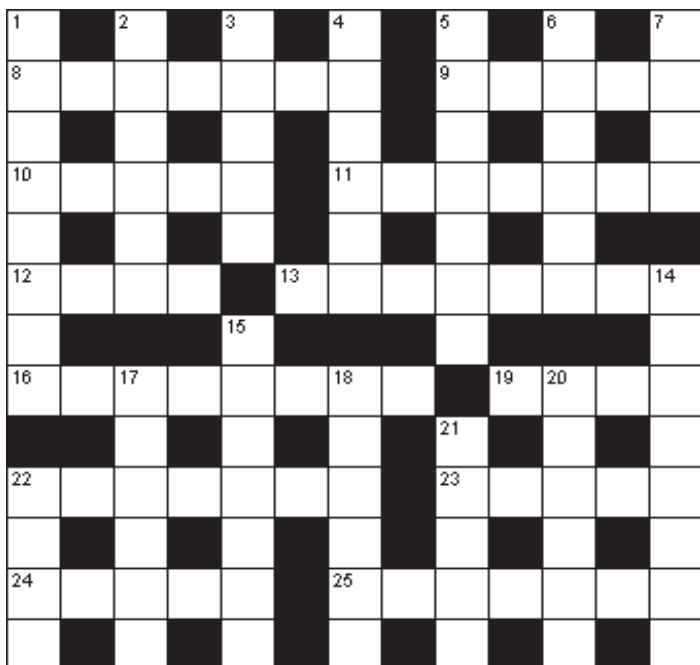


Participants enjoying surfing the internet at Mitiaro harbour 3rd – 7th Feb 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)



The teachers of Mitiaro school (Photo by Celine Dyer)

CROSSWORD

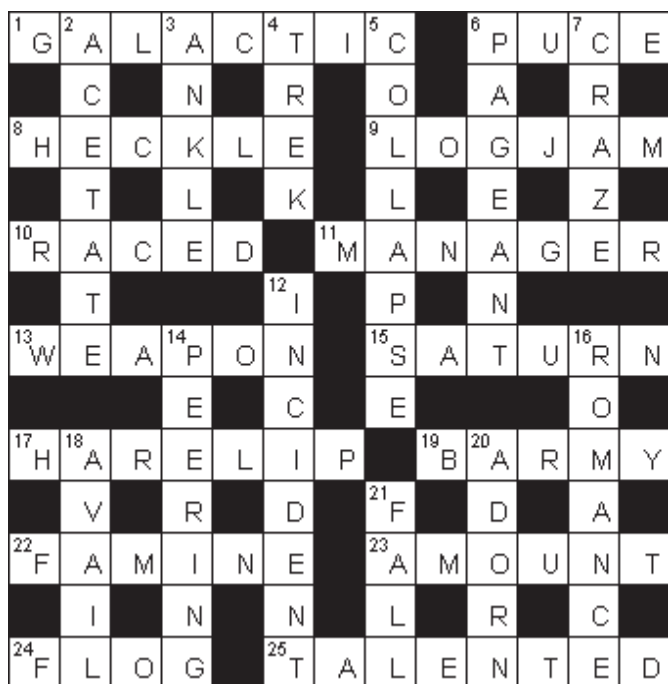


Across

8. Inspiring awe (7)
9. Guides (5)
10. Honeybee (5)
11. Bear witness (7)
12. Cry of a goose (4)
13. Wife of a prince (8)
16. Sweat (8)
19. Republic in W Africa (4)
22. Palm seed (7)
23. Injury (5)
24. Martial art (5)
25. Mitigate (7)

Down

1. Deprivation (8)
2. Scag (6)
3. Crates (5)
4. Superior (6)
5. Shutting (7)
6. Literary ridicule (6)
7. Wan (4)
14. Superficial (4,4)
15. Personal view (7)
17. Retract (6)
18. Go back (6)
20. Entertains (6)
21. Reside (5)
22. Half burnt coal (4)



The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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LAPTOPS

Tips & Tricks

Keep It Cool

Thanks to their small, cramped cases and tiny vents, laptops are prone to overheating. Unfortunately, using your notebook on your lap—or on top of a blanket that protects your lap from your scalding-hot notebook—can seriously stifle ventilation and make matters worse. To help keep temperatures in check, opt for a lap desk or a laptop cooling pad that won't conduct heat or block your laptop's vents.

Back Up Everything

Constant movement puts computer components at risk, and because of their portability, laptops suffer a lot more wear and tear than desktops. All of that on-the-go use increases the risk of hard drive failure, so make sure you back up the data on your laptop to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or home server on a regular basis. Portable hard drives like the Western Digital Passport Elite make it easy to back up your data on the road.

Cover Your Keyboard

Keep liquids away from laptops at all times. That rule often gets broken, of course, and accidents happen. Should that accident end up on your laptop's keyboard, however, you could end up with more than just a mess: Liquids that seep through your notebook's keys can fry its components. Protect your notebook from spills with a custom-built, plastic keyboard cover. Enquire at The Computer Man.

... to be continued

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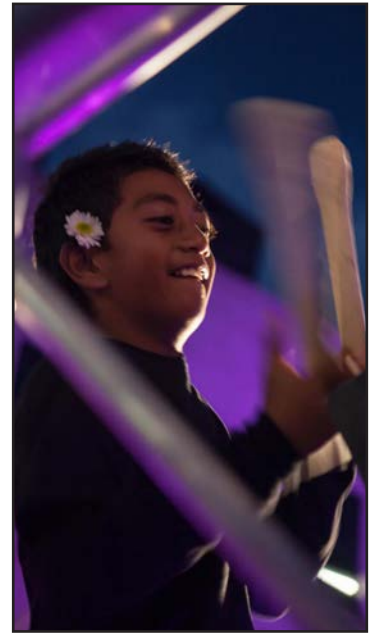
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Cook Islands Tamariki the stars of the BIG BANG event



Cook Islands Team Members at the Big Bang Event in New Zealand

One of the amazing experiences of my life!" Teremoana Arupu – Drummer from Aitutaki.

The opening event for the New Zealand Festival of the Arts drew over 5000 people to Wellington's Civic Square with the Cook Islands community in full support for the 10 talented young drummers. The group travelled with Motone Productions and the Acting Up Collective included master drummers Katu Teiti and Mark Short and a parents support team to the event that has been heralded as one of the best openings for the Festival.

The group were welcomed to Wellington with a Powhiri from local iwi Te Atiawa and Ngati Poneke on the tarmac of Wellington Airport and then whisked straight to rehearsals at Strike Percussions studio where some of the younger members needed a much deserved rest. The team showed the Director of the Big Bang, Internationally acclaimed actor Nathaniel Lees just why Musical Director Murray Hickman of Strike Percussion and Motone's very first Creative Resident in Rarotonga in 2013 had full faith in the children being able to deliver on the drums. So impressed was Nat Lees that he has also offered to assist where possible with Motone on future projects as well as Mark Short

with the Cultural Academy.

With two solid days of intense rehearsals the Cook Islands Tamariki took it all in there stride with media interviews on Campbell Live, Maori TV and Tangata Pasifika which were all part of the financial and promotional assistance given to the project by Cook Islands Tourism who committed to supporting the event recognising festival audiences as potential travellers.

The Cook Islands team took to the main stage with 200 children from all over New Zealand, a 200 strong Choir, as well as New Zealand band KORA who recently played at the 10th Anniversary for Vaka Eiva Concert in Avarua which was also produced by Motone. The main act and driving force of the event was internationally acclaimed Strike Percussion Group of which Murray is the Director. In the crowd in front of our Tamariki was the world respected composer Gareth Farr who was blown away by the Cook Islands performance. Influenced by George Upu in his earlier days Gareth said it was a truly an emotional moment to see Cook Island children perform the work he composed so many years ago that was influenced by Rarotonga.

"The influence the team has

had on the festival and media had been phenomenal and just proves that fusing traditional with contemporary is possible and incredibly valuable to the arts festival audiences. Audiences that appreciate art and culture and are interested in events that are arts and entertainment in the Cook Islands" says Glenda Tuaine of Motone Productions. "The Cook Islands Community came out in force to support this... on social networks and in the audience but not only that so did people who are Cook Islands fans; people who travel to our country or intend to travel to us in the future. Arts makes a positive impact for education, entertainment, culture and tourism and we certainly achieved that so we are really happy Cook Islands Tourism supported us".

Motone and the Acting Up Creative Collective also arranged an education programme for the children and adults involved in the group which saw them attend the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra performance of the BBC show Dr Who, visit the Wellington Zoo, have an exclusive tour of the Pacific collection at Te Papa Museum by Cook Islander Grace Hutton, where the group saw artefacts

that were centuries old from the Cook Islands and other Pacific nations. One of the highlights for the group was a tour of Weta Cave and meeting Sir Richard Taylor the owner of Weta Digital. The group were exposed to some of the secrets of Weta and how they make movie magic which stimulated minds young and old. Following that the group performed at St Patricks in Kilbirnie and allowed students to come up on stage and have a go.

With the support of the Cook Islands High Commission the tour was able to connect with the community to access extra drums and on the last night celebrated with a kai kai.

"The entire project has cost approximately \$22K to deliver and everyone involved has worked incredibly hard to make this happen. Without key supporters we would not have been able to do this, so when we get back to Raro we probalby need to take a page out in the a paper to thank everyone," says Mo Newport of Motone Productions. "Now everyone wants us to deliver this show in Rarotonga for the 2015 celebrations so we will see. To do that requires funding and sponsorship but I know Strike, Kora and the Kids are 100% keen.

Panthers 24 Bulldogs 22

Last Saturday 22nd February, a ruthless Panthers outclassed, outmuscled and ultimately embarrassed the Titikaveka Bulldogs to stride to a 24 - 22 win at Victoria Park, in front of a big crowd. For the Bulldogs, the players themselves, and especially their coach (Rea Rea) would have been very disappointed with the loss. In every aspect of the game, Bulldogs were more superior, and more forceful than their opponent. That is the reason why I am saying, that this loss has flattened and has undoubtedly demoralized the spirit of a supposedly well balance outfit. Very high in potential, but, lacking the will to blow its opponent off the park, very hesitant to bazooka the finite thrust The Bulldogs must act fast and take the next game to another level, otherwise they will be left behind.

It was a brilliant performance from the Panthers, oozing with class, pace and power and worthy of a side who is already hovering close to the top of the premiership ladder. The key to their will in view is, they refused to lay down and loose that game, they were constantly pounded, but, so heroic in defense and fought to the end. Both teams had opportunities to close the game up, but only the more composed Panthers took most of their chances.

I am expecting both teams to be in our Top 4, come championship time.

Eels 40 Bears 10

Eels coach Albert Nicholas must be very pleased with his team's performance. "They are a good team but we need to do better in every areas of the game, he said. We knew what their strengths were and we just counter them accordingly.

"The Bears have some serious training to do and some serious looking at themselves."

The platform was laid by the Eels' monster forward pack, and was allowing their brilliant backs to shine. "But if the forwards aren't rolling forward and defending ... the backs can't do that so well."

It was a tale of missed tackles and soft defending that allowed the Eels to march forward with purposive runs

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

Airfares to Aitutaki are now higher than they have ever been. Once upon a time \$99 fares were available. Try getting that now!!! \$250 plus one way. How can an average Cook Islander support their Raro based team in Aitutaki if it takes 2 weeks pay to get there!!!

IS IT TRUE

Eels league management have joined the ranks of bringing in IMPORTS – Fijian Imports. Like the Panthers the Eels have opted for A Full back, A Winger and A Centre.

IS IT TRUE

A mama is offering FREE Cook Islands Language lessons in Arorangi and the CIRL president is looking to offering FREE FIJIAN lessons in the masters clubs rooms in town. Meeting on Monday 12 noon.

IS IT TRUE

Takuvaine Warriors will beat the Ngatangia Sea Eagles by plenty this week. After the BYE last week the Warriors are fresh and recovered so will put on a more concerted effort.

IT IS TRUE

That the Takuvaine Warriors have just woken up and any prediction of a win over the Sea Eagles is just that – Sleep Talk

Simple Simon says.... Game Of Two Halves

The first 40 minutes between the Aitutaki Sharks v Ngatangia Sea Eagles was a woeful display of league. Both teams looked rusty in the first half and lacked the combinations that you would have thought had been practiced every Tuesday and Thursday. The huge crowd, over 500 some say, waited and ohhhhed as balls dropped, passes went to ground or the odd miss kick forced scrum after scrum to take place. The Sharks lacked direction with no obvious leader guiding the team into planned plays. Their captain, Mau George, a huge man, but a silent leader may not be the right person to take the Sharks forward. Their ball carriers lacked the cohesion to put regular hit ups together and threatened the Sea Eagles line, very disappointing considering the size the Shark forwards possess. Too often the pack was relying on the smaller Shark backs to try and do some of the donkey work of the forwards. The first half ended at nil all with a slight advantage to the Sea Eagles who were even unsuccessful with a late first half penalty attempt.

Sea Eagles coach Ricky Cowan was furious with his charges, strongly demanding they put together what they had practised on the very field they were playing on. A win A win was heard over the bellows in the half time talk.

The second half started like a bullet out of the gun with the home team's new standoff number 7 Ngatamaine Tetavano opening with a try close to the posts much to the elation of the Muri 500 giving their supporters something to finally cheer about. The conversion by Billy Tangapiri started the ball rolling in what was a point a minute scoring feast in the second half. Further tries to improving fullback Gerald Piho, (2) Matt Pierre, Eddie Nicholas, (2) Russi (lock) kept the Sea Eagles in a jubilant mood but really masked the ineptness of the Sharks. Final score, Sea Eagles 46, Sharks 0.

Sharks were UGLY....

The Sharks simply ran out of committed players with heart. They were UGLY!!!!. Devoid of ideas late in the second half, the Sharks persisted in kicking off to the corporate box side, where the same player returned the ball up 3 consecutive times – 3 TIMES!!!!. Frustrating for their loyal supporters but now offering food for thought about the worthiness of their playing future.

Over the last few days on the main island of Rarotonga the drums are beating again over the sustainability of Aitutaki Sharks in the rugby league competition. The financial burden by Rarotongan based clubs to travel and even host the visitors will again feature highly on the lips of the cynics. The only way to muffle that noise is for the Sharks to front up and put a win together very soon. Their draw for the next few weeks is a hurdle higher than Mt Everest, their only recompense is that a sprinkling of home games on their home turf might ease the pain for some. THE SHARKS are truly an endangered species here on RarotongaSo Says Sharkless Simon

Draw Wk 5 Fri Feb 28

Bears vs Sharks
Raemaru Park, 5pm
Sat March 01
Bulldogs vs Eels
Titikaveka, 4pm
Warriors vs Sea Eagles
Happy Valley, 4pm

New blood for netball in 2014

2014 is shaping up to be another important year for our national netball team.

New blood is being introduced by way of a new coach, and a temporary team manager who stepped in to help out during the Singapore series late last year has been confirmed in the position.

In less than 4 months' the Cook Islands will play host to this year's Pacific Netball Series (PNS). This year's PNS also doubles as a qualifying series for the World Cup in Sydney next year.

"It is paramount we place 1st or 2nd against Fiji, Samoa and Papua New Guinea if we are to have a chance to make the World Cup" said Netball Cook Islands President Patsy Hockin.

The start to 2014 also sees the arrival of new coach Trish Wilcox. Based in Auckland, Trish is currently the Community Netball Manager for the Netball Northern Zone. Trish was the Samoa U21 coach from January 2012 through to September 2013, she was contracted to prepare the team for the 2013 World Youth Cup.

"Trish is passionate about working with young women in sport and helping them to reach their full potential" said Patsy Hockin.

"Having Trish based in Auckland will mean she is ideally placed to keep an eye on our Auckland based girls; in fact the majority of the current team are in Auckland. Trish is already known to most of them, having helped them with their fitness and general mentoring in the past".

The girls' first training camp of the year will take place in Waitakere, Auckland, next week (26th Feb – 2nd March).

Joining that camp will be team manager Cecile Marten.

"Trish and Cecile were the only applicants for their respective roles that were extensively advertised over the last 3 months. The Board was

a little disappointed that there weren't more local applications, especially from those based in Rarotonga, however, that said we did not feel pressured into making the appointments and feel comfortable that Trish, Cecile and our Black Pearls will work well together as a team," remarked Patsy.

"Our new management team is committed to preparing a team that is not only match fit for the upcoming tournaments but for the next 3-4 years too. They share the boards long-term vision and goals and our commitment to enhancing the game of netball in the Cook Islands" said Patsy.

The Board would like to acknowledge outgoing coach Mii Maui and thank her for the sacrifice, effort and time she put into coaching the national team for the past two years.

The Board is well aware that taking on the role of coaching a national team often means something else in your life has to give, and more often than not that is valuable time with family. We appreciate the time Mii and her assistance coach Marghareta (Margie) Matenga OBE dedicated to the team and will always be very grateful.

"The Mii and Margie combination produced an exciting end to 2013 with a win in the Singapore Series and also in the Netball in Paradise tournament. If the team can build on these wins, then we will be in good shape for the upcoming PNS series" concluded Patsy.

Netball is a long standing and favourite sport of the Cook Islands. It embraces our competitive nature and plays a significant role in promoting health and well-being in our women and young girls.

The Netball Cook Islands (NCI) Annual General Meeting is being held at the NCI's office in Nikao, 6pm Monday 24th February.

Letter to the Editor Cook Islands Telecom

Dear Editor,

A cautionary statement to bring awareness to Mr. Mark Brown, Minister of Finance, regarding Digicel's business endeavors to acquire 100% shares ownership of TCI. Why is this, a MUST for billionaire, Irishman, Denis O'Brien. A good businessman knows, to have a successful, lucrative business; you must have a monopoly of the entity. This is achieved by first, wrapping the Legislators round your fingers to change the laws of that country so that you can operate freely, legally protected, calling the sponsorships, anything to get the transaction secured on legal terms, favoring the entrepreneur.

Let's say, Digicel, paid \$40 million for this asset. NZ get \$30 million, Cook Islands gets \$10 million, you can imagine a lot of smiling faces around as though relieved from constipation but wait this sweet sensation suddenly took on a numbing effect, the \$10 million is to be handed over to help erase the "RED" line in the Balance Book. The picture being painted here may appear that we are in a win/win situation but the reality is, Cook Islanders are the losers for sure.

"NEVER SACRIFICE A LONG TERM GAIN BY A SHORT TERM GAIN", I like the wisdom in this statement.

Another scenario, you invested lots of money in your own home and it became a mansion then you sold it to Mr. O'Brien, realizing you got no place to stay, you got down on your knees and begged the new owner to allow you to pay rent for the mansion at whatever price he wants, you finally realized that you have shot yourself in the foot and have no other choice. What I am saying is, DO NOT SELL OUR ASSET but buy back 11% shares from NZ to put us in a commanding position. Vodafone, Digicel, whoever, is free to bid the other 49% shares owned by NZ. In this Country, we should be running the show, not some filthy rich person or persons who have no contribution to our development for almost fifty years, walks in on the spur of the moment and reap the benefits. Of course these things do happen because we ignorantly allow them to. Yes, it does sound like the schemed, TE MATO VAI water project. It's time for a change in our ways of doing things to benefit our people. It's not about CIP's or DEMO's, or MAKI advices from Mr Richard Neves or any other consultant. It is about us, Cook Islanders, being PRUDENT and being RESPONSIBLE to the people of this great nation. The government received a dividend of \$2 million last year, NZ, \$3 mills? If Mr O'Brien own TCI outright, with a minimum dividend of \$5 mills/yr, over fifty years, \$250 mills. Now, double the TCI charge rates and increase our tourist numbers plus local populace by three times, a cool Billion Dollar, paid by Cook Islanders, Tourists and people alike within the next fifty years. How pathetic! Never! Allow outside foreign influences to control our culture and way of life.

Yours KIA TOA, KIA ORA
Enua Bishop

New Hope Church
Parekura Conference Centre
Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you
Sunday at 10.30am

Aitutaki Hunt D-League Title

The new look Cook Islands Domestic League swings into action this weekend as Aitutaki make their first of two trips to Rarotonga in chase of the 2014 Domestic League title.

Local corporate support has been strong in Aitutaki and together with the players, some wives and partners Aitutaki have raised the resources to fund their two trips to Rarotonga. According to Tairi Paulo it may be the first time Aitutaki are involved in the Cook Islands Domestic League however they aren't coming to simply make up the numbers. Belief will be high amongst the Aitutakian team after winning the recent Festival of Cricket Six a Side tournament in January.

All eight players from the winning Aitutaki Six a Side team return for the Domestic League. The squad includes Dawn Tare (from the Amuri Cricket Club), Shane Munokoa (Vaipae), Tairi Paulo (Arenikau), Sunga Monga (Vaipae), David Paulo (Arenikau), Avatea Tuao (Arenikau), Teararo Paraia, Morgan Upu (Vaipae), Pastor Zekaria (Titikaveka/Raro), Nga Taiti (Arenikau), Pita Tare



Dawn Tare (Amuri) Bowling in the Six A Side Winning Final in January 2014

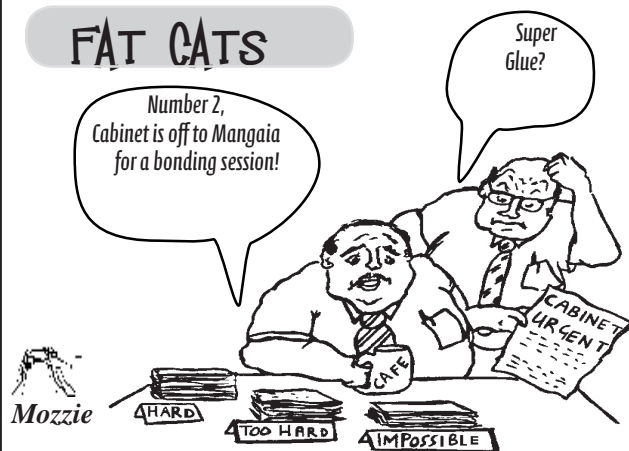
(Arenikau), Alex Roa (Arenikau) and Daniel Mataiti (Amuri).

Cricket's Alister Stevic said that a lot of recognition had to go to Shane Munokoa for all his efforts in coordinating Aitutaki's involvement in the D-League "Shane Munokoa has worked tirelessly with Cook

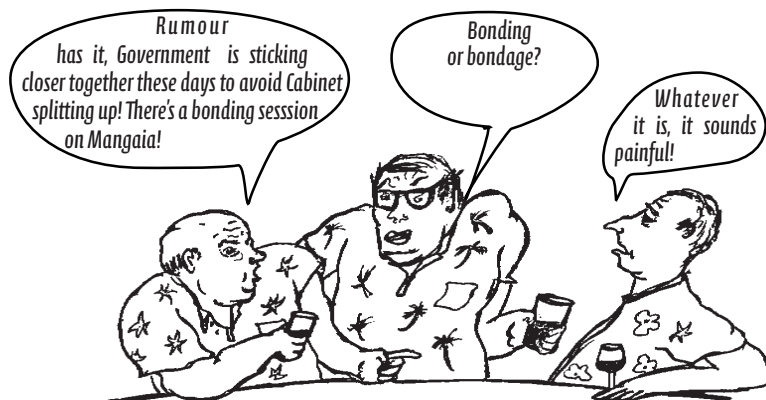
Islands Cricket to coordinate the schedule, timing, draw etc to ensure Aitutaki's involvement in the Domestic League. Aitutaki are a quality side and cricket lovers can all expect something special from this team when they touch down for their first round of matches".

Aitutaki's first match is scheduled for this Friday at 5:30pm against the Cook Islands Womens team, followed by two matches on Saturday against the World XI (11AM) and Pukapuka (3PM). All weekend matches are scheduled for Turangi Cricket Oval. Rarotonga has the bye.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Cook Islands
HERALD
PMG
PITT MEDIA GROUP

CITV Building
Moss Road
Parekura, Rarotonga
PO Box 126 Rarotonga
Tel: (682) 29 460
Fax: (682) 21 907
E mail: bestread@ciherald.co.ck
www.ciherald.co.ck

Editor: Charles L. Pitt
Columnist:
Norma Ngatamariki
Graphic Artist: Nga Glassie
Accounts/Deliveries:
Te Riu Woonton

Having self-confidence

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

This article is intended to encourage us to break out of our habits that prevents us from moving forward in life, or from achieving things for ourselves, or from moving to the next level. James 2v.17 says "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Successful people are people of action. They know how to get things done. The question is "What does it take to get you moving? To get you to do something about your life?" There are many different things that motivate us but there are three very common ones:

1) Pain. When we feel the heat, that's when we get moving! When we get desperate, that's when we get moving! In the story of the prodigal son, when he realised his difficulties, he came to his sense, & went back to his father! We rarely change, until we get desperate. Many people hate going to the dentist until they couldn't bear the pain anymore, then they go to the dentist. Proverbs 20v.30 (GN) "Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."

2) Pressure motivates us to get out of a habit that hinders our progress in life. You go to the doctor and he says, "Lose 50 pounds and quit smoking or you're going to die!" Your boss says, "Improve your performance or you're fired!" That's pressure. The problem is, once the pain and the pressure subside, or go away, we go back to our normal ways. We go on a diet until we loose the weight but that doesn't permanently change our eating habits. The fact is God often uses our situation to push us in a new direction.

3) Perspective (point of view; perception). Paul, on the road to Damascus, got an inspiration, a new vision. Acts 9v.3-6 reads "Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice 'Who are you Lord?' Paul asked.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

'I am Jesus now get up and go into the city and you'll be told what you must do.'"

I want to talk about the 5 steps to get us moving.

i) We must be responsible for our own lives. Some people their favorite phrase is, "It's all your fault!" They want to blame everybody else for their failure. Some people they have excuses for everything. But there are also people who accept responsibility for what happens to them, and when they make mistakes they admit it. Proverbs 28v.13 "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful, but if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance."

ii) Believe you can change. Stop saying "I can't" and start saying "I can". Philippians 4v.13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Reprogram your mind. Romans 12v.2 reads "Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of mind." Success starts in our mind -- how we see ourselves. It is typical when God wants to use somebody the first thing we do is come up with an excuse saying, "I can't! You've got the wrong guy. I can't do it!" Mark 9v.23 "Everything is possible to him who believes." Mark 10v.27 "...With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible."

iii) Clarify (make clear) what you really want. Make sure that you are clear in your mind of what you want to change! James 1v.8 reads "A double minded man is unstable in all he does." James is saying that the problem is, a lot of people can't make up their minds. Decide what you want and then commit yourself to it, and start saying, "Lord, change me!" Not, "Lord, change my wife/husband/kids, but me."



The only way we can change other people is by changing ourselves.

iv) Don't wait for ideal circumstances. Ecclesiastes 11v.4 (GN) "If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything." The Living Bible says, "If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done" If you want to spend quality time with your wife, children or family, - do it now! Because if you're waiting for the right time then it will not happen.

v) Exercise our body. I Timothy 4v.8 "Physical exercise has its value". Most people are simply too tired to change. The fact is God made our bodies for movement. He made us for activity. Successful people are people of action. They know how

to get things done. Proverbs 27v.1 (GN) "Never boast about tomorrow. You don't know what will happen between now and then."

Have you been telling yourself, "I'll never change! That's just the way I am! I can't change!" Begin by allowing God to transform your mind. The worst mistake a person can make in life is to delay committing him or herself to the Lord Jesus Christ. I Kings 18v.21 "How much longer will it take you to make up your mind? If the Lord is God, worship Him!" II Corinthians 6v.2 "Today is the day to be saved!" not tomorrow. Today is your day! Give your life completely to Christ then He will give you the power to make all those other changes that you need to make.

May you have a God blessed week!

Parent/Teacher Interview

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

This Thursday, Tereora College will be holding their Parent/Teacher Interviews which will run from 2pm to 5pm. Argh! But, this isn't like your ordinary school interview. Parents will actually get the opportunity to have a "heart-to-heart" with our Anau teachers for ten minutes and establish some sort of relationship. The scary part about this is that the teachers will be updating parents on their child's progress (and failures). The students are like "But I don't want my parents to know what I get up to in school." Well, FYI, unless you're paying for your own school fees, then you have no say in the matter.

My dad's mobile phone rang yesterday. I thought it was one of his drinking buddies, calling him up. I was so wrong. I got

the shock of my life when I heard my Anau teacher's voice on the other line. Should I pretend that she had the wrong number? No. The school would think that I gave a fake phone number. Should I say that my parents weren't home and wouldn't be for a while? My mum chose that exact moment to call me. Should I just...hang up? In the end, I handed the phone over to my mum because she kept nagging. Oh well.

Okay, so the main focus of this Interview is to set some goals. Goal-setting was a real big thing last year. Mum wasn't into it back then (and to be honest, I wasn't either) but I guess she had a change of heart. Compared to previous interviews that I've had in the past, I reckon this one is going to be more...full on. I'm only used to talking with my subject teachers (and receiving their

praise for my good work lol) but to talk with my Anau teacher...I don't think there will be any problems. I have an awesome Anau teacher.

I might as well get it out there, here and now. For my academic goals, I just want to get an overall Excellence Endorsement for NCEA Level 3. I'd also like to place first in at least three of my five subjects, but hey, it all depends on how hard I work (If I get first in all five, that would be a bonus). The whole purpose for this goal-setting thingy is so that you can have something to aim for, and that you don't sit in class thinking, What am I doing with my life?

But yeah. My message to all Tereora College students reading this article: Don't be scared. Even if your performance isn't really cutting it, this will be a chance to make



improvements for the future. You never know, your parents might be a bit understanding as to why you're failing in Math (it's a really difficult subject anyway). And sure, we do heaps of goal-setting activities in school (I'll admit, it can be a bit boring if it becomes too repetitive) but it'll help.

A change in fashion

By *Nadia George*

Nadia is a Year 13 student at Tereora College, and a student leader for her Anau, Maungaroa. Her interests are paddling, performing arts and media studies. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends.

For centuries now, people have changed their tastes in fashion from what they see as what's 'in' and what isn't. Simply because everyone has different views on what's hot and what's not. What was cool one day could just as easily be phased out as quickly as it became popular.

Take for example the game Flappy Bird, hate it or love it, either way you're thinking of it. For those of you who don't know, Flappy Bird is a game that was released in 2013 for android and apple devices, all over the world. The overall idea of the game is to get the highest of scores, by flying the bird through a series of pipes, flapping up and down to dodge each obstacle. Now the game is definitely a lot harder than I make it out to

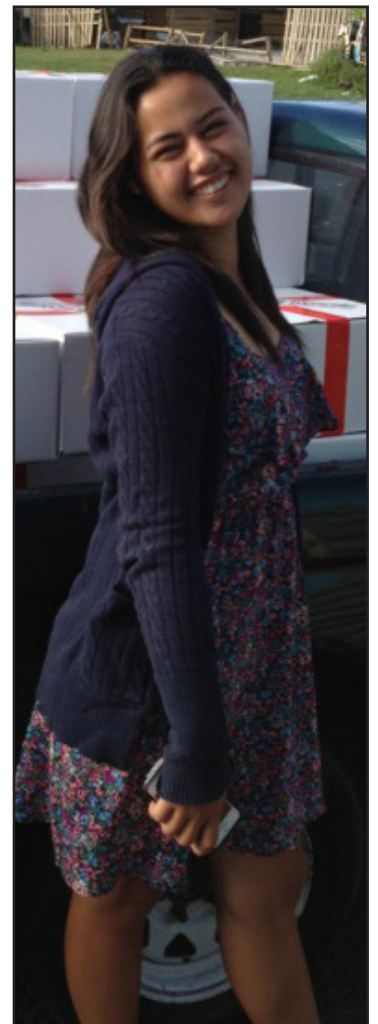
be. In fact it's so hard, that people all over the world have just stopped playing it. Except for an odd few people, such as myself. What was once a highly popular game all around the world is now hated so much by people, due to its high level of difficulty. Even I have a hard time getting past a score of twenty, when all my friends are moaning about being stuck on sixty-five! Well I guess what I'm trying to say here is that this game, just like its other predecessors, Flappy Bird has now become obsolete. Oh well, I guess it's back to Candy Crush lol.

But games aren't the only changes in fashion we've lived through. There are such things as clothes, digital devices and even words or phrases that were once cool to us before, but now just seem over the top and a bit cliché'. Moreover, people always want something new, something fresh so that there can be variety in their lives. Like having the best phone.

Whether you're an iPhone freak or a Samsung lover,

it doesn't really matter. All that matters is getting your hands on the latest piece of tech, and for most people, that'll be the iPhone 5S, and for others, well the Samsung S4 is a pretty sweet too. I say this because, just like all other changes in fashion, the changes in technology have got to be number one on my list. Forget the latest swag clothes, smart phones are where it's at! But it's honestly one of the hardest trends to keep up with, not only cause technology today is constantly evolving. But mainly because, it takes a hefty chunk of change just to get your hands on the latest smart phones.

In the long run, one can only stop to think, were the changes really worth it, because really when you think about it, trends will always come back around and repeat themselves. One prime example of this, are the words that teens use today, are actually not so new and have been around since our parents were young. I wonder what'll be the next big thing?



Whisper chooks is that at the CIP caucus meeting at the OPM on Monday night, the wish is to mount a challenge to the Beer win in Murienua! And this from the candidate who resigned after the first by-election because he feared court action by the Demos! That's rich! Is there no end to the CIP sore losing streak?



Well done that man Phil! His brilliant arithmetic shows how those on the local pension, which was once tax free thanks to Albert and now taxable thanks to a non-entity, will now be worse off! What needs to happen now is for local pensioners to join up with Grey Power and put real pressure on government to "back down." See you at the next Grey Power meeting Phil.



Why did the Minister for Infrastructure not fall in with the rest of the team and saunter off to Aitutaki for R&R? Even his CEO could not explain the reason so it must be political.



Some local artists are not happy that a foreigner sculpted the stone fish hook thing-a-mee for Mato Vai, plonked outside the NZHC! A local artist said the stone came from T&M Heather where they are on sale in the main office for \$6,000. The Frenchie sculptor the local said was known for his rough work. Go look closely at the fish hook he says. It's not got a polished finish and this type of stone is prone to breaking if hit. And why a fish hook? Culturally inappropriate say some locals. No wonder so few locals bothered to turn up to the ceremony. A bright spark once muttered you can fool some of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time!



Oh dear chooks, hen says at a donor round table chin wag, the Public Service Commissar Comrade Hussell, revealed he is seeking an amendment to legislation to enable him to roll over contracts! The announcement the hen said was met with gasps and disbelief! "Corruption!" someone in the audience muttered! Why does comrade Hussell need this power? Who put him up to this? Trickie Dickie in the hope his contract will be rolled over? What say ye Frown Lawyer Baunders? Do we really need this? Is comrade Hussell empire building?



Chook reports going to work in his taro patch behind the old Kia Orana Foods site in Parekura last Saturday where the Chinese accommodation is

being built. He was turning in and the red Chinese workers van was driving onto the main road. As he got to the site where the Chinese were doing some work this guy on a motorbike was coming out with one bag of cement on his lap — theft came to mind. He worked on his taro patch and by the evening he thought to go and report this to the Chinese workers assuming it to be theft and was shown the supervisor who spoke very good English. He laughed and said that's okay as the guy came and asked for a bag of cement. So he asked whether they were giving away free bags of cement and if he could one but the supervisor smiled, said no and walked away! Perhaps this is how they are handling this fuss with TMV project, that we will end up paying for, — giving away free bags of cement!



One thing's for sure, the self praising Demo wonder boy Ed Drolley can't claim he master minded Beer's winning Murienua by election result. If anything his best contribution was to stay away and put his efforts into babysitting. His friendship with his wife's boss neneva Neves was a giveaway (talk about a Trojan horse) when he fought tooth and nail to stop James tax policy which was the pillar of the victorious campaign. Now that the most expensive raffle organiser Drolley's raffle ticket projects in Raro and Aitutaki is over he can start working on the Demo web site he still hasn't done after six months. Too much making stews of fabrication to do what he is obesely paid to do.



The CIP version of Drolley call me "DPM" T. Heather's tar sealing machinery must be on its way. After months and months of stalling the shocking road from the Airport to Tupapa is being tendered for reinstatement. Despite the money being in hand to do the job and ICI told to get on with it repeatedly nothing was moving till now. If Heather

gets the contract as the word is then forget about a beautiful hot mix like the Airport to Nikao road we'll be getting a chip seal road that wears out the bike tyres in quick time. In his \$70,000 DPM pickup Bulldozer Heather and his CIP cronies don't feel the rough bumps and poor roads bike users have to negotiate every day.



One good result from the CIP loss at Murienua is Bulldozer call me DPM Heather won't have another MP in his pocket to manipulate as he pushes on to be the PM. Bully Bulldozer spent buckets of money no doubt from his office support budget to get in the bag Kaota elected and even threatened his staff (of a business he says he isn't involved in) who lived in the area to vote for his man Kaota.



Heard about the Government Ministry that took three weeks to get the grounds person a rake? After repeatedly requesting the ministry head and staff instructed to get a rake nothing happened till they went and complained to the Prime Minister's office CEO. Then it took two staff to go and buy a rake. No wonder some HOMs have to yell at their highly paid staff.



What about one Ministry that had two senior staff paying to get their tax funded vehicles to be cleaned? One was submitting invoices made out to look like it was a professional cleaning service, but it turned out to be the initials of his two young children, at \$75 a clean it was a bit on the nose. The other person was paying their partner \$100 to clean the car they both used as if was their own. Despite being told to stop they continued the practise for a further four months. Not bad money if you can get it.



A noticeable absentee from the Murienua by election build up was Demo President Sean Willis, not even

one public appearance or even a texted message of congratulations. May be Willis needs to step aside for Mr Poila who is making a comeback.



When the Bulldozer formerly referred to in audit circles as bobcat "call me DPM" Heather spoke at the Murienua CIP green bottle rally the Saturday night before the vote he congratulated his candidate and said it was a done deal, all in the bag. Then three days later at cabinet when asked for an update, again the Bulldozer, the CIP version of the Demos Drolley, reiterated it was all good, no problems it's more now, even a bigger majority. Exactly what he said after coming back from Tamarua, well we know what happened in Tamarua. Now two false prophecies in a row Heather needs to be restrained from any more involvement in CIP campaigning because he really is campaigning for himself to be PM, a sure way for the CIP to be forever in the political wilderness. Imagine a tax funded \$70,000 pickup driving space cadet for PM.



Word is during the jolly celebrations in Aitutaki last Saturday night at their world famous Fishing Club official opening with PM Puna, the China Ambassador and McGully the Fishing Club's Patron and Life Member and all the dignitaries present the most Honourable Minister of Tourism Teina Bishop was prompted by fellow Minister Glassie to get up and sing an item. Bishop serenaded the cheering, clapping crowd with the song "Please Release Me." After that X Factor, Aitutaki Idol performance Elvis Puna lost vocal confidence as he did at the Murienua rally and declined a special request from the Chinese Ambassador to sing all or one of his three hit songs, The Great Pretender, Don't be Cruel and I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane.



It seems Foreign Affairs long timer Carl Hunter has well and truly thrown in the towel, obviously he was sick of being Elvis Jet Plane Puna's full time tax funded travel agent. Constantly under pressure from his former boss Ed Pitman to scour and constantly scan the globe for travel opportunities and freebies to feed the PM's travel addiction, Hunter thought it would all end when he got the promised lucrative job in the Auckland Office. Instead the woman that should have become the new travel agent ended up getting the overseas post. Talk about the cognitive effects jet lag has on your decision making.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
SOCIAL IMPACT FUND (SIF)
PROJECT FUNDING**

The SIF provides combined Cook Islands and New Zealand support to Cook Islands Civil Society Sector to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in the community and is focused on 6 priority areas: Gender equality, Children & Youth, Disabilities, The Elderly, Domestic Violence and Mental Health.

The SIF Board now invite proposals for Project Funding in the following eligible project areas

- Community Education Projects
- Training
- Workshops
- Awareness raising activities
- Income generation
- Organisational Strengthening

Please note Infrastructure projects and International travel are not encouraged, but will be considered on a case by case basis.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on telephone 29378 or email angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck Ministry of Internal Affairs. The deadline for submission of Project Funding Application is Thursday 24 April 2014. No applications will be accepted after this date.

TENDER



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
TENDER**

Rarotonga Road Network Improvements
Supply and Construction of Road Network for Project City 3
Hotmix—Contract No. C13/13.2, Chip Seal—Contract No. C13/13.3

Under the Asian Development Bank Economic Recovery Support Programme (ADB – ERSP), the Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) is managing a number of projects related to water supply network upgrade and roadnetwork improvements on Rarotonga.

These contracts involve the improvements of road network within the areas from Panama through Avarua Township to Tupapa. A copy of each tender document can be collected during work hours from the ICI office in Arorangi. Note that a non-refundable deposit of \$200 will be required before each tender document is issued.

Tenders close at 3pm Friday, 21 March 2014, and must be submitted to the ICI Office in Arorangi in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Document.

Enquiries to: Tenga Mana
Project Engineer
Email: tenga.mana@ici.gov.ck
Phone: +682 20321

BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy birthday dad, papa Mata Strickland. We thank the heavenly Father for this special day. Celebrate your special day for a special dad, grand pa, great grand pa. We love you. From your children here in Sydney, New Zealand and Solomon Islands. Love you.

Minora Strickland

Mount View Lodges O'oa

Accommodation to suit your budget



Self contained and self servicing
free standing units

**FROM \$35
PER NIGHT**

Ph: 29491 Mobile: 50326

VACANCY



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund ("CINSF") is a national superannuation scheme designed to assist all employees save for their retirement.

The Fund is currently seeking an experienced, pragmatic, and energetic Chief Executive Officer with proven experience in meeting targets to effectively manage and oversee the Fund's business operations and continue to build and develop the business in accordance with the Cook Islands National Superannuation Act, Trust Deed, vision and values.

Based in Parekura, Rarotonga, this varied and challenging role requires a strategic business manager with strong operational experience and proven leadership qualities.

Reporting to the Cook Islands National Superannuation Board, the CEO will contribute to the direction and operations of CINSF by developing strategy for the business and effectively directing and developing the team (Operations, Client Services, Risk and Compliance and Administration Services) in the provision of all services to our members, employers and service providers.

The CEO will develop and build strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, manage staff to achieve key business objectives; monitor the industry, market and trends and undertake business development and marketing activities to ensure continued high member satisfaction and engagement levels.

Essential Criteria

- Minimum of 5 years experience in a senior management role
- Demonstrated capacity for clear strategic thinking, planning and problem solving
- Strong leadership, interpersonal & communications skills
- High level of business development and marketing skills
- Proven record of success in human resources and leadership
- High degree of commercial & business acumen, strong understanding of financial management and budgetary control skills
- Experienced in the operational management of ICT and Office Administration
- Ability to develop new innovative solutions that address structural and operational barriers that stand in the way of achieving successful business outcomes
- Capacity to effectively represent and promote the business and its vision and values

Applications are to be in writing, (including applicant's CV and the names of two referees) to be addressed to the CINSF Acting Chairman.

Applications to be delivered to the Office of the Financial Secretary or emailed to richard.neves@cookislands.gov.ck no later than 4.00pm, Monday 3 March 2014. All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence. A job description can be obtained by emailing etuatina.drollett@cookislands.gov.ck

VACANCIES



Due to continuing growth and high occupancies, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, Sanctuary Rarotonga on the beach and Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa have a wide range of employment opportunities seeking enthusiastic, motivated staff serious about a long term career, in all areas of all three Resorts operations, in Rarotonga and Aitutaki, on a full or part time basis, including school leavers such as;

- Purchasing Officers
- Accounts Officers/Qualified Senior Accountants
- Activities & Kids Club Officers
- Restaurant & Bar Servers
- Chefs & Kitchen Hands
- Porters
- Security Officers
- Room Attendants
- Laundry Runners
- Gardeners
- Front Office/Spa/Tour Desk Receptionist
- Duty Managers
- Sales Coordinator
- Qualified Tradesmen including Plumbers, Mechanics, Electricians, Carpenters, Refrigeration Engineers, Painters, Tilers etc.

You will have excellent communication skills, be able to relate well to guests and staff alike and be able to work shift work.

Previous experience is preferred however full international standard training will be provided to the right candidates.

For more information on the position and the Resort visit our website www.TheRarotongan.com or apply to Human Resources on;

Email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

Phone (682) 25-800 ext 8069



ACCOUNTANT – TEMPORARY ROLE

2-3 Month Contract – potential extension

The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa is seeking qualified and experienced Accountants or Account Officers with strong attention to detail, who can focus on reconciling transactions in the general ledger to assist in preparing for the annual audit.

The role will suit accountants looking for a short term role of 2-3 months with potential for extension.

For more information on the position, please contact Tamara Thornton on email at hr@rarotongan.co.ck or Phone (682) 25880 ext 8069

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

Appreciation Notice



To My Friends, the voters of Murienua.

I would like to thank you for the patience and forbearance you have shown with our electoral process in the past months. I know it has been trying for all of you, and I am grateful for all your thought, care, and diligence shown by my fellow Murienuan's during this long process.

It has been a fiercely fought campaign and if I have come across too passionately or strongly its because I love and care for Murienua and the Cook Islands deeply.

We have much work to do, all of us. We have much to save, our country is in real trouble this is evidenced by the massive level of depopulation and the continuation in the escalation of the cost of living. I am looking forward to working with you, whether you voted for me or not, whether you live in Murienua or not, because I believe the solutions to our problems lie in the collective wisdom of the people of the Cook Islands.

I am determined to take your voice whether that voice is a cry of help or that voice is a solution to our concerns to the house that representatives all Cook Islanders - Parliament, and only with your help can I be the most effective.

Meitaki Ma'ata God Bless you and the Cook Islands.

James Beer. Member of Parliament Murienua.