

# Minister meets with DSM hopeful

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER and Minister for Minerals and Natural Resources Tom Marsters this week met Titikaveka resident John Engu, who is the first Cook Islands person to express interest in applying for training under the recently announced International Seabed Authority (ISA) training programme.

Marsters encouraged Engu with his interest in taking part in our nation's future in deep sea minerals in our exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"I am very pleased to see our locals coming forward. Don't miss out or be discouraged. Even if you don't have the right qualification right now, just show the ISA where your interest lies in our deep sea minerals future and let them decide how

they can help," Marsters said.

"To seek to learn, of any type, always has its benefits, no matter what your age."

The minister's deep sea minerals staff, Paul Lynch and Darryl Thorburn, then provided Engu with all relevant information to help him determine the area of interest he could select from to pursue.

A meeting will be held on Wednesday next week at the DPM's office to provide a final update and application to all persons who have expressed interest.

"I have a dream that, with the help of our development and investment partners, it will knowledgeable Cook Islanders running our Deep Sea Minerals sector in the future. Both on

the water and on land," Marsters said.

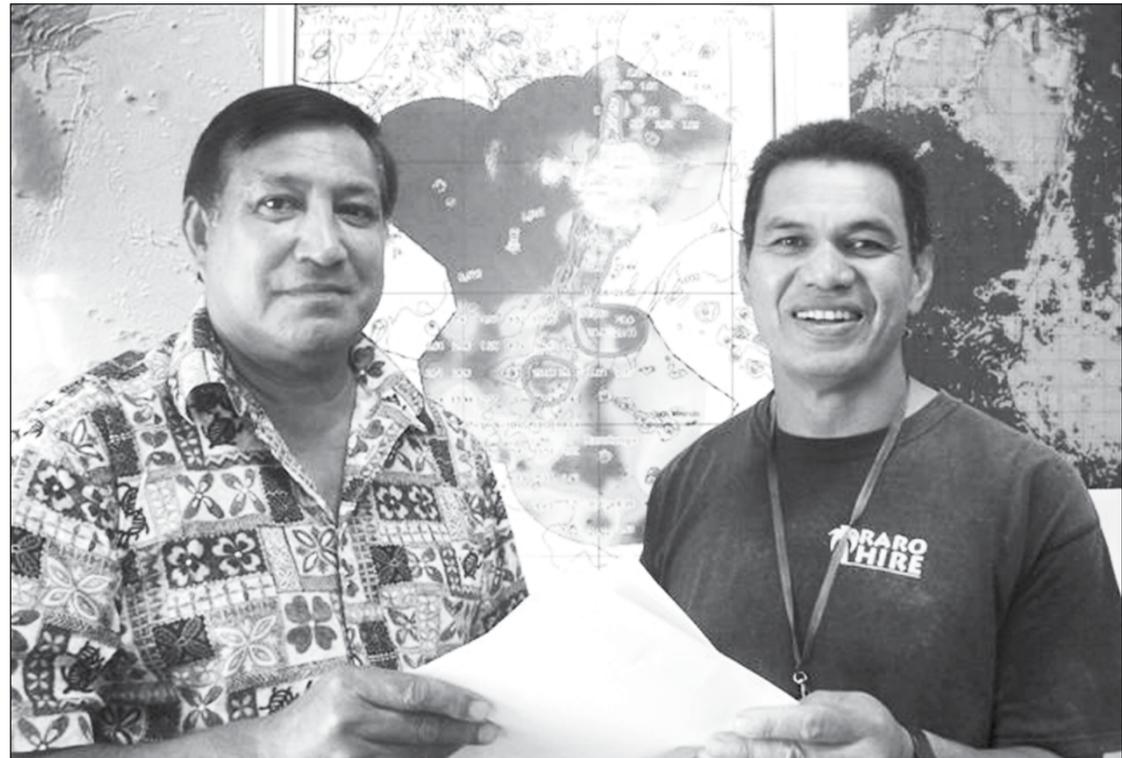
"Our government greatly appreciates the wonderful assistance of SOPAC and the ISA for providing this training opportunity to our people.

"I plan to continue to raise awareness of these career opportunities in deep sea minerals in our up-coming national Careers Day, in our schools, colleges and

to all Cook Islanders here and overseas."

The minister's office is taking expressions of interest on 29030 or by email to [dpmoffice@dpmoffice.gov.ck](mailto:dpmoffice@dpmoffice.gov.ck)

Lynch pointed out that it is not only people with masters degrees that can apply to join the training programme, but also college students who are interested. ■ Release



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Minerals and Natural Resources Tom Marsters discusses an International Seabed Authority training programme with hopeful applicant John Engu. 12051032/12051033

## Slim win in Manihiki

PEPE MARIKA has been confirmed as the winner of the Manihiki Island Council by-election, although his victory came with a final, fleeting scare.

With the final votes tallied, including declaration votes and those collected in Rarotonga, Marika won the Tukao council seat by the slimmest of margins possible and pitted Navakatini Greig by just one vote.

Marika took 30 of the 70 votes cast in the election, one more than Greig's 29. Mataio Puapui Johnson, the election's third contender, earned 11 votes.

Marika held a two-vote margin over Greig after the first round of voting, but that was reduced when Greig captured four votes in the declaration and Rarotonga-cast counts. Marika won three. ■ EP

## Where are stakeholders in HOM choices?

ASMOKE SIGNALLER writing about the selection panel for heads of ministry positions asks: "If the economy is being driven by the private sector, why does the selection have all ex public servants on it? Where is the Chamber of Commerce? Where are the stakeholders? Or is this just the continuation of the downward spiral in standards?"

### GOVT HAS 'TO GO UP'

A SMOKE SIGNALLER puts forward their thoughts on KATA's cartoons that poke fun at the prime minister's travels: "Progress is connected to happiness. A sense of making progress is the greatest motivator of all says Daniel Pink in 'Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us'. Every list-maker knows the power of making progress. Checking off another item on the list energises them to attack the next task. Conversely, your worst days at work are days when you don't make progress. No or slow progress DEMOTIVATES. Feeling stuck discourages us. If the PM and his Cabinet sat there and did nothing, they get criticised. They do something, people still criticise. How are we as a country and people able to make progress? There is a saying that 'you have to go out to go up'. Our PM has to see what others are doing before he can do it at home. We learn from others and from our experiences when we see things working in other countries, especially if these are new ideas like alternative energy. Stop knocking the PM, don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution. If it makes you feel better to

criticise then keep it to yourself. Remember, the reason why Oprah is so popular and powerful in the media is because her show has the ability to inspire and uplift people. Criticising doesn't inspire or uplift." SS: I think Oprah's talk show ended a year ago. A note to KATA: how about cartoons showing the PM visiting solar power factories, wind farms etc – you can check on the Internet to see what they look like. It's amazing the amount of detailed, free technical information that is out there on the net.

### WAITING FOR TREES

A SMOKE SIGNALLER writes: "I want to ask a question to the tree experts who say they have not been foolishly butchering trees in Matavera but have been beautifying the village by 'pruning'. It has now been two weeks since they came in the newspaper and said 'the trees will grow back, just like the hair'. Since reading this, every day as I ride past I have been carefully watching the stumps of some recently pruned coconut trees and want to know about how much longer it will be until the trunk and leaves start growing again from the middle? Should I give the coconut tree stumps some water and fertiliser as they still look katu pakiko [bald headed] to me?" Another signaller writes to TXT188 on the subject of tree chopping on Rarotonga: "Would the trimming of coconut trees to half trunk suggest re-growth or just an artistic point of view? It must be a subtle approach to beautification, one would assume."



### WANTS VILLAGE ACTION MAN

AFTER SEEING the Wednesday front page photo of Tupapa MP George Maggie playing an active role in the felling and chopping up of a dangerous 'utu tree (Barringtonia Asiatica) in Maraerenga, a smoke signaller texts: "I wish our village had a George Maggie. He has done so much for his village. Will make us think hard when elections come around next time. We will want an action man." SS: Barringtonia trees have the common names box-fruit tree, heart tree and yum-yum tree. Not sure where the yum-yum part comes in as the fruit and other parts of the tree are poisonous! Like the coconut, fruit of the 'uto tree are very water resistant and buoyant and are dispersed by ocean currents, surviving afloat for up to 15 years (according to Wikipedia).

KEEP the smokies rolling in! Smoke Signals and interesting island photos will be accepted by email ([smokesignals@cookislandsnews.com](mailto:smokesignals@cookislandsnews.com)), or text to 188 or a phone call to the newsroom on 22999.

**LIVE TONITE!** *Simply Kuki's*

**Special international guests**



**JEROME**

**PUSH 2**

**DA MAX!**

**with DJ Marama**

**ALL NEW**

**SHOTS MENU**

**\$6 EACH**

**BIG BOYZ \$5.50**

**SPIRITS \$4.00**