



Our 2026 LINE-UP OF CANDIDATES

Akarongo, Manakonako e te Aroa



Let's Do This. Let's Stay Connected.



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Tikitiki-tangata Motif - People united in purpose

Ni'o Mango Motif - Protection, strength, and courage

Circle Motif - Woven together as the people of the Cook Islands

Spearhead Motif - Leadership, direction and purpose

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TO TATOU **Arataki** OUR LEADER

In 2022, the Cook Islands United Party entered into its first elections with 17 candidates and won 3 seats in Parliament. Making history in the arena of politics, as a newly established party.

As a political party, we have focused on meeting the needs, concerns and aspirations of our people. With the financial and human resourcing provided by T & M Heather Construction Ltd, the Cook Islands United Party was able to meet the needs of the people within and outside of our relative constituency boundaries.

We are thankful to the many people in the community, businesses, traditional leaders and church organisations that worked with us. Together, we have:

- Improved the healthcare of our elderly by providing reliable 24/7 transportation to the hospital and other medical therapy treatments through the establishment of 'Oronga no te Mana Tauturu Incorporated.
- Purchased a 'Community Police Jeep' to assist the Puaikura Vaka Police.
- Revived the 'Ruaau Child Welfare Centre' to assist our new born children and families.
- Restored 'Kura Akaangi Marae' to remind us of the arrival of the Gospel to Rarotonga.
- Renovated the Arorangi CICC Grounds both internally and externally in support of the 200 years celebration.
- Protested publicly on issues of concern ranging from New Zealand Passports to Protection of Our Ocean.
- Supported the investiture of Makea Ariki by assisting with the traditional umu kai for 3000 guests.



TO TATOU Akakoro'anga OUR LOGO

For 200 years, the Cook Islands have been influenced by the Christian principles of FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE. These principles influence the thinking and actions of the Cook Islands United Party.

The 'Dove' represents unity, community well-being and compassion to build and maintain relationships with respect.

The '15 stars' represent each island that makes up the Cook Islands and are specifically circled around the frame of the logo to represent the importance of each individual island.

The 'Blue' background signifies our geographical position in the Blue Pacific region and our relationship with Pacific and international countries.



OUR VISION and OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

Empowering the aspirations of our people will be our priority.

OUR MISSION

To stay connected and responsive to the needs of our people.

TO TATOU Ora'anga Tangata OUR VALUES

Tu Tauturu | To Help

Supporting the elderly, parents, youth, children and people with disabilities and special needs.

Tu Akono | To Protect

Protecting our environment, culture and traditions.

Tu Tavini | To Serve

Serving our communities.

Tu Akakoromaki | To Persevere

Serving with patience, respect and understanding.

“Our Journey”

Kia Orana To Tatou Iti Tangata O Te Kuki Airani,

This year has been a defining and eventful one for the Cook Islands United Party. On Wednesday, 25th March 2026, we proudly launched our Manifesto at Aroanui Hall to a full and enthusiastic crowd – an inspiring show of support from our people.

What made this moment truly special was the journey leading up to it. For three months our candidates for the 2026 General Election, alongside their executives, and various community groups from Rarotonga, Pa Enua and overseas, worked together to shape and develop our manifesto. It is a document built by the people, for the people.

It is now time for our awesome team of candidates to put the Manifesto into action. They stand united with a clear purpose to serve our people. This is because they know and understand the challenges our people are faced with daily. They are experiencing it too.

Leadership is not about privilege – it is about responsibility. It is about putting our people first, listening to our communities, and delivering real results where they matter most.

Our vision and future is one where our people can live, work, and thrive right here at home.

Te Atua Te Aroa

Ms Ina Richmond
General Secretary

Vaka Puaikura

The Cook Islands Christian Church in Arorangi is an historical site that captured the reshaping of cultural practices, governance and daily life.

It is a physical reminder of the day when the teachings of Christianity were brought to Arorangi by indigenous missionary Papeiha and received on the 25th July 1823 by Tinomana Enuarurutini Ariki.



***"Leadership guided
by Christian principles."***

TO TATOU AU Tavini OUR LEADER

Teariki Heather - Murienua, Rarotonga



Leadership and Government

The type of leadership and government we need really comes down to values – how we balance tradition, democracy, accountability, development, and the wellbeing of our people in both Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.

STRONG DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

A healthy system depends on leaders who are answerable to the people, not just political parties or cabinet.

PEOPLE CENTRED GOVERNMENT

This means government decisions are measured by impact on ordinary people.

A people centred government asks: "Does this improve life for families, elderly and people with disabilities?".

It is 'Island Context Specific'. We live uniquely in the Pa Enua and Rarotonga.

'LEADING THE WAY'

1 Corinthians 13:13

**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.**

With 50 plus years in business, 22 years in politics and a life commitment to the people of Puaikura and the Cook Islands; I am excited to lead the Cook Islands United Party and our team of Candidates for the 2026 elections.

Working with respect and appreciation of others is key to building credibility, life-long friendships and long-term loyalties in any community. It also requires humility, hard work and honesty. These values keep us connected to what matters the most; that being our faith in God, family, and those in need in the community.

There will always be daily challenges in our life personally, in the community, and in business. This is why Monday to Saturday our company T & M Heather Construction and Contracting Ltd, spend the first part of the day in biblical devotion before starting work. Making time for God is a must.

As our Cook Islanders continue to migrate to New Zealand or Australia. The need to import an array of foreign workers from around the world becomes necessary and with foreign workers they will bring their values and spiritual needs with them. These values and spiritual needs do and will continue to impact on the way we live in the Cook Islands.

The need to proclaim the Cook Islands as a 'Christian Nation' is indeed upon us.

This will require a constitutional change to the 'Constitution of the Cook Islands. Our overarching law of all laws. By doing so, we will ensure our Christian values do not erode with the widening influence of other religious faiths. Instead, it will bring faith, hope and love to guide us into the newness of the future of the Cook Islands".

BUSINESS

1968 - 1987

Supporting Role at B & M Heather Construction and Contracting Ltd, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

1987 to present

Director, T & M Heather Construction and Contracting Ltd, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

COMMUNITY POSITIONS

1979

Chairman Ruaau Christian Youth Club
Puaikura Christian Youth Club

1993 to present

Chairman, Arorangi Sports Federation

1998

Vaka Puaikura Mayor

2004 - 2017

Puaikura Community Hall Project,
Aroa Nui Hall

2017

Refurbishment of the
Arorangi Sports Club House

2021

Ruaau Meeting House Project

POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Member of Parliament

Akaoa, 2004 - 2018

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Justice

Minister of Police

Minister of House of Ariki

Minister of Cook Islands Parliament

Minister of Infrastructure and Planning

Member of Parliament

Murienua, 2022 - 2026

Leader of the Cook Islands United Party



TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Tim Varu - Ruaau, Rarotonga



Empowering Young People

Our youth are the foundation of tomorrow, and our elders the wisdom from which to strengthen the bonds that hold our community together.

When young people know they belong and have a voice, they are empowered to reach their full potential. Every young person should feel connected, valued, supported, and hopeful.

For young people this means creating and widening pathways to education, employment, leadership and fostering a strong sense of cultural identity and belonging. These are practical steps that are do-able and able to address the challenges young people face today, but more importantly, it creates spaces where they feel safe, seen, heard, and valued.



WORKING CAREER

2006 to Present

T & M Heather
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

1987 – 2004

Concrete Structures
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

COMMUNITY POSITIONS

Ruaau Child Welfare Centre
Vaka Puaikura Te Maeva Nui
Vaka Puaikura Council

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Apii Arorangi Primary School

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE

Cook Islands Rugby
Cook Islands Rugby League
Arorangi Cowboys and Bears

POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

2022 – 2026

Member of Parliament

'CARE FOR EVERYONE'

"Born and raised in Vaka Puaikura, I am no stranger to service, leadership, and community. Nurtured with strong family values, and community service has kept me loyal and grounded. Public speaking and personal confidence, I accredit to the Church of Jesus Christ. These attributes have shaped me into being a person who cares for everyone regardless of ones beliefs or political affiliation".

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Rob Heather – Akaoa, Rarotonga



Pa Metua Healthcare

Our Pa Metua should be supported to age safely, actively, and with dignity in their own homes and communities.

Supporting elderly people to live independently at home requires a mix of transport, community care, safety, and social connection.

Setting up volunteer driver programs using trusted local drivers, and coordinating health check days, shopping days and village events so transport can serve several elders at once.

Collectively, it becomes a service that is owned and driven by the community to better support our pa metua in the village.



WORKING CAREER 1993 – current

T & M Heather Construction & Contracting Ltd
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

1987 – 1993

Heavy Machinery Operator, Bricklayer,
Scaffolder, Quality Control
New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

COMMUNITY POSITIONS

Akooa Kids Tanutanu Growers Foundation
Vaka Puaikura Mayor
Vaka Puaikura Te Maeva Nui Cultural Team

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Tereora College Head Boy
Apiti Arorangi Primary School
Avatea Primary School

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE

Arorangi Sports Federation Manager
Cook Islands Rugby Union Coach
1st XV Rugby Captain
Tereora College

POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS 2022 – 2026

Member of Parliament

'SENSE OF DUTY'

"Married with five children and three grandchildren, I bring life lessons learnt from involvement in community, sports, culture and the invaluable experiences I gained as a former Puaikura Mayor. I, have a duty of care to our elderly and at-risk youth who suffer from neglect and high cost of living pressures, which urges me to stay connected with our most vulnerable. Our people, language, culture and Christian principles are under threat from foreign influences, but our priority must be to protect and preserve our unique way of life."

Vaka Takitumu

There are three Cook Islands Christian Churches in Takitumu, located in Matavera, Ngatangia and Titikaveka.

The construction of each church is unique. Each holding its own powerful testimony to receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their Ariki, Mataiapo and Rangatira.

Indigenous missionary Papeiha was able to connect and apply Christian principles to the cultural way of living in Rarotonga. This approach to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ built a stronger sense of community and village life.



***“Christian faith lived
out in the community.”***

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Taneao Ngamata – Matavera, Rarotonga



Building Safer Communities

Everyone deserves to feel secure in their homes, villages, and public places, able to enjoy freedom and peace. Our commitment is to build safer communities from the ground up—working alongside people to have grounded and real solutions.

We will prioritise early support for young people, families, and those at risk, addressing challenges before they turn into crime. By partnering with traditional leaders, churches, families, and essential services, we can address the root causes and drivers of crime. Through fair, transparent policing and genuine collaboration, we create safety that is shared, trusted, and owned by all of us.



WORKING CAREER

2011 – 2026

Cook Islands Police

1987 – 2006

Building Construction, Cook Islands
Concrete Construction,
Auckland/Hamilton/Picton NZ

COMMUNITY POSITIONS

Matavera District Council (MDC) member
Holy Spirit Revival Church (Elder)
Vaka Takitumu Te Maeva Nui Culture Team

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Matavera School
Titikaveka College

SPORT REPRESENTATIVE

Ngatangia/Matavera
Rugby League
Vice President (current)
Ngatangia/Matavera
Rugby & Rugby League

POLITICAL HIGHLIGHT

2022 Election Independent
for Matavera

'LEAD, SERVE, INSPIRE'

"Originally from Rangiatea, I was shaped by faith, culture, and strong family values.

These foundations guided my commitment to practical solutions that address genuine community needs.

Over the years, my experiences have strengthened my humility, resilience, and sense of accountability.

I remain dedicated to serving with integrity, honesty, and transparency. Side by side, we turn possibilities into progress."

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Elizabeth Iro – Titikaveka, Rarotonga

E tamaine na Teimorimotia e Puaikura
E tamaine na Tamakeu Mataiapo Puretu Heather e Matoi Rangatira Manoa Heather



Health Governance and Leadership

Health is the foundation of a strong Cook Islands. With strong leadership, we can build a system that supports people early, strengthens families and equips health workers with the tools and respect they deserve.

We believe in prevention, better access to care, and practical services that reach our children, pa metua, people with disabilities, and those recovering from illness.

Health is one of our greatest investments. By working together – communities, caregivers, churches, and health professionals - we can create a healthier, more caring, and resilient future for every person and our nation.



WORKING CAREER

2018 – 2023

Chief Nursing Officer,
World Health Organization (WHO)
Geneva, SWITZERLAND

June 2023

Member of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Technical Scientific Expert group on
Public Health.

2012 – 2017

Secretary of Health
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

2011 – 2012

Chief Nursing Officer
Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS

2002 – 2010

President of the CI Nurses Association

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Master of Health Science (MHSc)
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Certificate in Civil Law

SPORTS

1999 – 2004

President Cook Islands
Netball Association

'BETTER HEALTH STARTS IN THE HOME'

I have spent my life looking after people. A nurse and midwife by training, I have served the Cook Islands as a nurse and a midwife then as Secretary of Health and later represented nurses and midwives globally as Chief Nursing Officer for the World Health Organization in Switzerland. Now standing for Titikaveka, I bring proven leadership, practical health experience, and a strong commitment to families, caregivers, pa metua, people with disabilities, and the health workers who serve our communities every day. I have also nurtured three children and continue to support the nurturing of my three grandchildren, experiences that have deepened my understanding of care, responsibility, and the importance of strong family support. My message is simple: better health starts at home, prevention matters, and our people must always come first.

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Mapi Ioteva – Ngatangiia, Rarotonga



Traditional Leadership Ui Ariki, Ui Mataiapo, Ui Rangatira

Traditional Leadership embraces, respects and nurtures our cultural values, guided and strengthened by Christian biblical principles.

It is a governance style grounded in humility, responsibility, and accountability – one that nurtures the land and sea to sustain the community, while providing pastoral care for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the village.

Future generations are at risk of losing the cultural forms of governance, knowledge, and practices that define our identity.

Active preservation and protection through everyday practice are essential to ensure these values continue today, and tomorrow.

WORKING CAREER

2024 to present

Te Vara Nui renovations and Ocean Escape

2022 – 2024

TNM Limited and Ngatangiia SDA Church

2001 – 2024

Nautilus

1997 – 2001

Sydney - Steel Fixer

1989

Public Works Department - Joinery

COMMUNITY

Deacon for Ngatangiia CICC Church

Chairman for Tapere Avana

Tekaara Rangatira (For Vaikai Mataiapo)

Community Liaison (For Kainuku Ariki)

Takitumu Te Maeva Nui Cultural Team

Composer – Te Maeva Nui

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ngatangiia Primary School

Titikaveka College

SPORTS

Ngatangiia Club

Turangi and Avana Cricket Club

POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Candidate 2022 General Elections

'COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBILITY'

"I am married to Mataipakia Marevatai.

Together we have 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys. We also are blessed to have 2 grandsons too.

Lessons learnt, experiences gained and relationships built during the 2022 General Election has encouraged me to stand again for Ngatangiia. My village upbringing, and my family legacy is what makes me want to take up the responsibility – to serve, to listen and to build a stronger future for my village of Ngatangiia and the people of the Cook Islands."

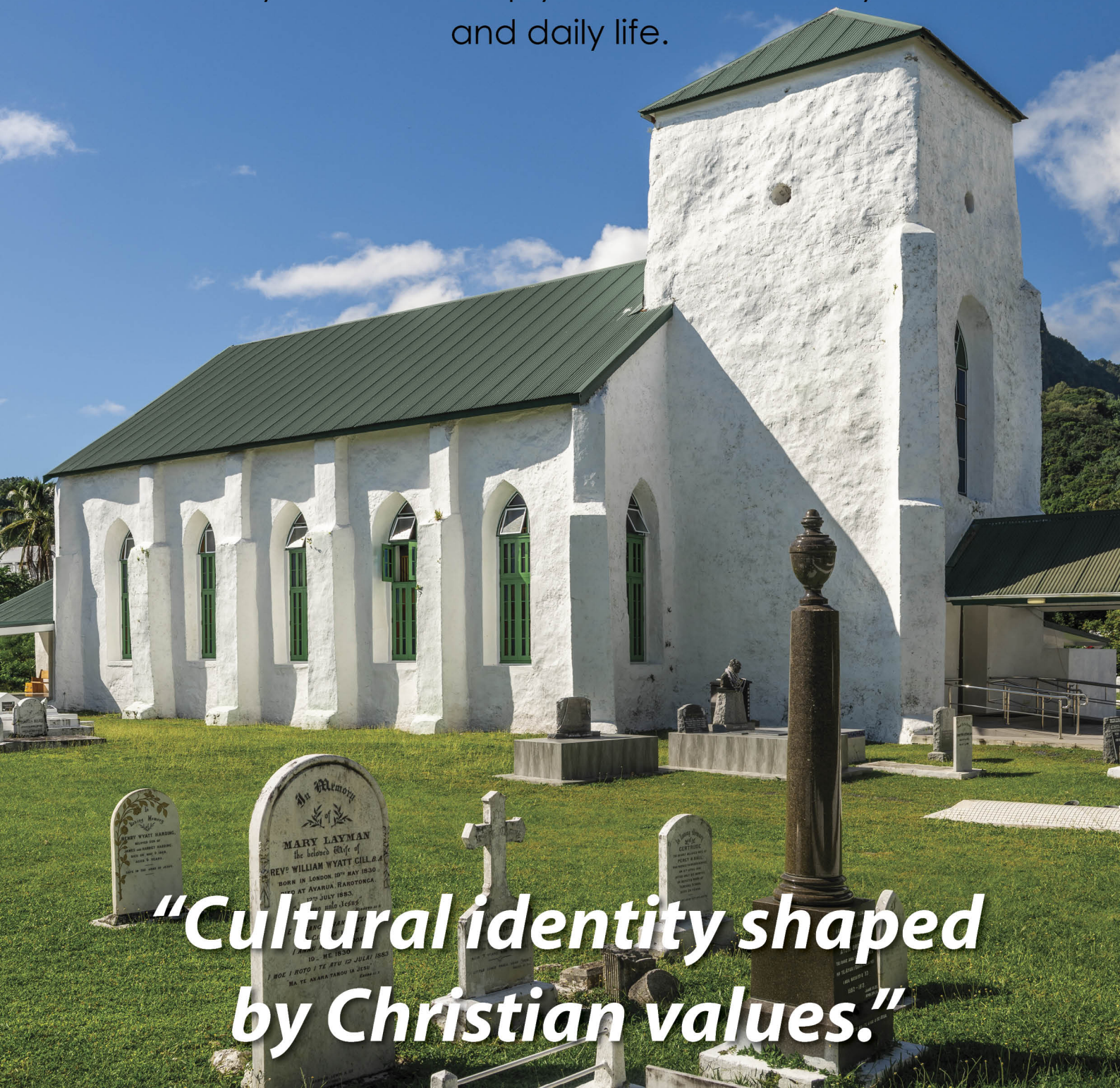


Vaka Te Au O Tonga

There are two Cook Islands Christian Churches in Te Au O Tonga, located in Avarua and Nikao.

Avarua stands as a divine weaving of Christian faith and cultural identity in Rarotonga.

Christianity became deeply woven into identity, culture, and daily life.



***"Cultural identity shaped
by Christian values."***

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Rota Williams - Pa Puia Rangatira – Tupapa Maraerenga



Cook Islands Māori Returnees

For many **Cook Islands Māori returnees**, staying connected to our people, our families, and the cultural values has always guided us. Our village upbringing kept us grounded and grateful to those who held our home strong while we were away.

After 45 years in Australia, returning to **Tupapa Maraerenga** has deepened my pride in the many Cook Islanders who have also come back with renewed purpose. Their courage reflects our shared commitment to our **Iti Tangata** and our **Ipukarea**.

We return because our homeland is built on **connection, family, and community strength**. I stand for **Education, Welfare, and Community**, supporting every generation from **Cradle to Grave**.

Every return strengthens our story as Cook Islanders.

EDUCATION

1961 – 1968

Avarua Primary School Dux

1969 – 1972

Tereora College Prefect

1973 – 1974

University of the South Pacific

1999

New South Wales TAFE- Hospitality

2010

Sydney University

2nd Languages

WORK HISTORY

45 Years in Sydney Hospitality,
Waiter-Supervisor-Manager,
Corporate Events,
Opera House, Olympic Stadium

COMMUNITY

1985 – 1988

Sports Co-Ordinator Sydney

1982 – 1988

President Tupapa Maraerenga Sydney

2008 – 2014

President Cook Islands Language School

2001 – 2008

Secretary Auburn Cook Islands
Presbyterian Church

'TUPAPA MARAERENGA ALL THE WAY!'

"Born and bred in Tupapa to parents Tangaroa Williams (taxi owner/planter) and Tapaeru Teroo who instilled in us the shared values of hard work, family kinship and service within and to the community. With 45 years' experience in hospitality from local umu to fine dining and a wide range of Cook Islands community leadership roles within the church, sports teams, cultural groups and language groups; Im ready to be the eyes, ears and voice for Tupapa Maraerenga."



TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Jacqueline (Jackie) Tuara – Takuvaime Tutakimoa



Cultural Education and Social Well-being

The preservation of Cook Islands culture, language, and identity is essential to the future of our nation. Our reo Māori, traditions, values, and cultural knowledge connect us to our ancestral heritage and provide a strong foundation for future generations. I am committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen cultural education, protect our heritage, and ensure our language continues to thrive in homes, schools, and communities.

At the same time, we must build a caring and inclusive society where every person has the opportunity to live with dignity. Strengthening social welfare, supporting vulnerable families, improving access to essential services, and investing in community wellbeing are vital to a stronger and more resilient Cook Islands.



BUSINESS

2021 to present

Co-owner, Managing Director, TJ Browne Ltd, Rarotonga

1991 to present

Owner, Managing Director, Moana Gems Ltd, Rarotonga

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

2018 to present

Founder, President, Lead Tufof
Manava Ora o te Ivi Maori (Manava Ora)

2018 to present

Member, Korero O Te Orau

2001 – 2018

Vaka Takitumu Dance Team Cultural Co-Ordinator,
Choreographer, Costume Designer

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Victoria University - Wellington,
Auckland University, Tereora College, Apia Avatea

SPORTS

1996 & 1999

World Cup Netball Youth Umpire – Canada
and New Zealand (respectively)

1998

Awarded the International
Netball Umpires Award (INUA)

'OUR PEOPLE, OUR GREATEST INVESTMENT'

"As a mother, educator, and cultural leader, led by my Christian Faith, I believe our greatest responsibility is to invest in our children and our people. By strengthening cultural education, protecting our natural environment, and listening to the voices of our communities, we can empower future generations to lead with pride, purpose, and respect for the values that define us as Cook Islanders."

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Dr Teina Rongo – RAPPA, Rarotonga

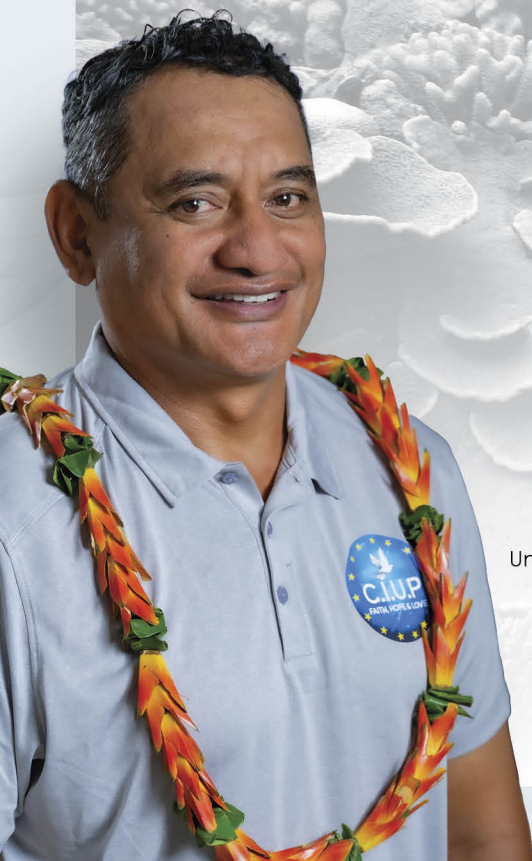


Protecting Our Ocean

Our ocean is a living and interconnected space that lies at the heart of our identity, heritage, and ancestry. For generations, our ancestors traversed Te-Moana-Nui-o-Kiva, guided by an intimate understanding of the stars, currents, winds, weather patterns and marine ecosystems and the wisdom to always find their way home.

Today, we face decisions that may permanently harm our fragile ecosystems beyond repair, undermining the cultures, livelihoods, and communities that depend on them.

We are committed to safeguarding and responsibly stewarding our ocean, ensuring that its health, abundance, and cultural significance are protected for future generations.



BUSINESS

Managing Director, Rongohiva Watersports

WORKING CAREER

2019 – present

Kōrero o te 'Ōrau
(Chairperson)

2013 – 2017

Climate Change Cook Islands
(Advisor)

2000 – 2001

Ministry of Marine Resources
(Acting Research Director)

1993 – 1996

National Environment Service
(Environment Officer)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Florida Institute of Technology (PhD Marine Biology)
University of Guam (Bachelor & Master of Science-Biology)
Tereora College (Rarotonga) / Kapiti College (NZ)
Avarua Primary School

SPORTS

Rising Stars Championship for Netball,
Rugby and Volleyball (Founder)
Guam National Rugby Union (Captain)
Avatiu Rugby Union (Premier)

'NEVER GIVE UP'

"From the mountain valleys to the pa'i taro, to the lagoon and reefs, and vast ocean beyond, my journey has been shaped by family, communities and values of our homeland.

From my education at Avarua Primary School and Tereora College to experiences across the Pacific, I have always sought to learn, serve, and contribute to the well-being of our people while protecting our culture and environment.

Guided by my late mother's words, "Ea'a roa koe e tuku i te 'au" — never give up — I remain committed to service, perseverance, and our shared future."

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Macan Munokoa – Nikao, Rarotonga



Families and a Fair Standard of Living

Every Cook Islands family deserves a fair standard of living. From our children to our elderly. People must be at the heart of every decision.

While increasing the minimum wage is important, it must be matched by reviewing tax thresholds. There is little benefit in raising wages if families lose much of that gain through taxation and rising living costs of food, housing, utilities, and everyday essentials.

Equally important is quality education, support for families, and dignified care for our elderly. Strong families build strong communities, and strong communities build a stronger Cook Islands.



BUSINESS

2009 to present

Managing Director, Turamatuitui Bakery

WORKING CAREER

2006 – 2008

Specialist in Attaché Software

2004 – 2005

Cook Islands Audit Office

2001 – 2004

BMV International Ltd – Accountant

2000 – 2001

Ontrac Pty Ltd – Supported financial systems and accounting

1997 – 2001

Accounting System Consultant

1995 – 2001

Espresso Caffe Franchise, Café Assistant

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Bachelor of Business Studies (Accounting),

Diploma in Management,

Tereora College, Nikao Maori School

SPORTS

2012 to present

President, Nikao Sokattak Football Club

'BUILDING A FAIR NATION'

"I come from a family with a long-standing history of service to Nikao, and I am deeply committed to continuing that legacy. Guided by my faith and trust in God, I believe that the blessings we receive are to be shared with those who are less fortunate yet equally deserving of a fair and prosperous life. My focus is to strengthen the way government works. Ensuring that we can share the benefits of a peaceful and just nation, to everyone in Rarotonga and the Pa Enua."

Pa Enuā

Rakahanga



Pukapuka



Nassau



Suwarro



Palmerston



Aitutaki



Rarotonga





Penrhyn

Manihiki

OW

cook islands



Manuae

Takutea



Mitiaro

Atiu



Mauke

Mangaia



TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Maitoe Henry - Ranginui Mataiapo – Arenikau



Farmers, Growers and Fisheries

Farmers, growers, and fishermen across Rarotonga and the Pa Enua are a powerful economic force. With the assistance of a stimulus package, they will once again be a major contributor towards the Cook Islands economy.

By making full use of our land and ocean resources, our people can increase local food production, supply fresh fish and produce to Rarotonga, and reduce dependence on imported goods.

This creates healthier food choices, strengthens food security, encourages active lifestyles, and fosters village-based enterprise.

It is an opportunity to bring our people together, both young and old, into productive activities, and together build a stronger economy.



WORKING CAREER
1990 – 1995
Correction Officer

1995 – 2019
Deputy Officer
Justice Department

EDUCATION
Araura Primary

Araura College

COMMUNITY POSITION
Traditional Leader
(Mataiapo)

Land Consultant

Culture Orator

Agriculture Grower

Fisherman

SPORT REPRESENTATIVE
Are Nikau Dart
Club Captain

'TOGETHER FOR YOU AND OUR PEOPLE'

"Born and raised on the beautiful island of Aitutaki, I have always held a deep connection to our land, our culture, and our people. I am married and blessed with four wonderful children who continue to inspire my commitment to serve our community. Throughout my life, I have been actively involved in community organizations, church, youth activities, sports, and cultural initiatives. These experiences have given me a clear understanding of the real needs of our people in the Cook Islands and abroad. I remain committed to working together to build a stronger future for all."

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Tumutoa Nicholls – Amuri-Ureia



Pa Enua Tourism

The Pa Enua provides the cultural backdrop and authentic heart and spirit of a collective Cook Islands culture.

While Rarotonga serves as the main gateway, the Pa Enua reflects, preserves, and showcases the traditions, values, and way of life that make Cook Islanders unique.

Pa Enua Tourism must be shaped in a way that reflects its unique identity, protects its environment – ocean and land, and delivers benefits directly to its people.

True prosperity is shared when Pa Enua Tourism empowers our people to thrive while living in balance with the land, the ocean, and our cultural values.



WORKING CAREER **2009**

Pacific Islands Community Services,
NSW Police Force,
Sydney Australia

2003 - 2006

Carpentry, Townsville, Australia

1995 - 2001

Aitutaki Tour Guide

1989 - 1994

Promoting Cook Islands
Tourism Overseas

1983 - 1984

Cook Islands Champion Male Dancer

1987

Cook Islands Cultural Village
Tour Operator

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

1999 - 2001

Branch President
Church of Jesus Christ

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Araura College
Araura Primary School

'PEOPLE, CULTURE, AND SPIRIT'

"Born and raised on the beautiful island of Aitutaki, I live and breathe the spirit of my homeland. I am blessed with eight children - three boys and five girls. My identity has been dedicated to serving my paradise island Aitutaki through dance, culture, sports, and the development of our youth – strengthening the values, traditions, and community spirit that define who we are as a nation. Aitutaki is not just where I come from. It is my life, my love, and my homeland."

TO TATOU AU Tavini OUR CANDIDATE

Teariki Tangua - Ta'akoi Mataiapo – Vaipae-Tautu



Pa Enea Enterprises

Protecting pa enua produce and products over imported goods will ensure pa enua enterprises are given priority and a protected area of business in the Cook Islands.

It will require clear legislation with subsidies of various types to ensure they receive reliable transport and shipping services to move pa enua produce and products between islands and markets.

Pa enua enterprises help strengthen village life and the local economy by creating income opportunities for families, a YES we 'can do it' attitude, and encouraging the use of local resources and skills.



WORKING CAREER 2022 – 2026

Stock Controller,
Neibaa Trading limited

2019 – 2021

Nursery Officer,
Ministry of Agriculture

2009 – 2018

Manager,
Neibaa Trading limited

2000-2008

Shop Assistant, Neibaa Store

COMMUNITY POSITIONS

Ta'akoi Mataiapo

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Araura College
Vaitau Primary School

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE

Vaipae Rugby Union Team

HOBBIES

Soccer

'COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND WORKFORCE'

"For 19 years, my wife and I, have been married. We have two children and have lived in Aitutaki in the village of Vaipae and Vaipeka over that time. As Ta'akoi Mataiapo, it is my responsibility to care for the community in a way that meets the needs of our pa metua, e te tamariki. The cost of living is very expensive, especially the increase of cost for power, gas, petrol and food. People are struggling to pay these bills. There is a need to support start up and existing small enterprises for our people. The type that creates employment opportunities for our people and develops owner-operated enterprises."

TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Rev Temanu Soatini – Penrhyn



Community Informed Legislation

Strong policy begins with listening to the community. This creates better-informed legislation that is responsive, effective, and grounded in the realities of our people living in Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.

With the high demand for imported labor to meet workforce needs, workforce policies need to balance economic needs with the protection of our cultural identity and constitutional foundations.

Any legislation must be carefully designed to support development while safeguarding the values, traditions, and wellbeing of the Cook Islands Māori people.

WORKING CAREER

2017 to present

Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW, Australia

2016 to present

Solicitor in the Hammond Law Firm

1997 – 2023

A Duly Ordained Minister

of the "Word" - Australia

Lakemba and Mt Druitt

Congregation - Sydney, NSW

1986 – 1996

Justice of Peace

New South Wales

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice,

Bachelor of Laws, Master of Ministry

Master of Theology

COMMUNITY

2006 – 2009

The First President of the Cook Islands Community Governing Body and Religious Advisory Council In New South Wales

2010 – 2026

President of the Tongareva Community in New South Wales

'SHAPING POLICY THAT WORKS'

"Beyond my professional career as a lawyer, my wife, Matha Soatini, of 40 years of marriage, has been my greatest support in both my legal work and pastoral charge. Serving as a Minister of God's Word for the Cook Islands Community and working with the Pacific Advisory Council of NSW, I have seen firsthand the power of selfless service. My life's work in these fields was honoured with the 'Living for Others Award' from the International Federation for World Peace, a recognition that reflects my core belief: policies and ministry must be both efficient and effective in meeting real social needs. As a lawyer, I believe policy must be grounded in evidence, not ideology or suspicion. What matters is what works, for whom, and under what conditions."

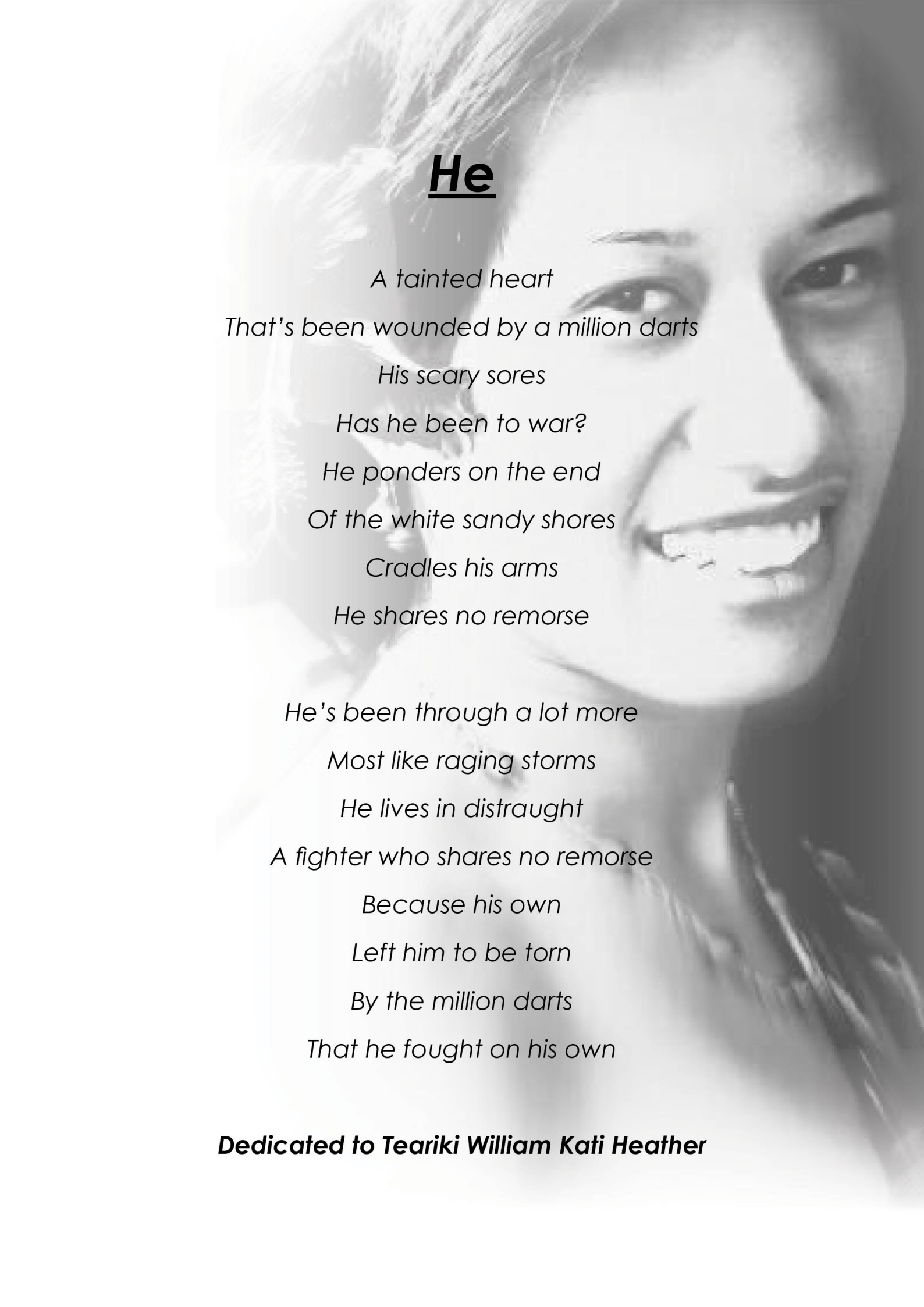


TO TATOU AU **Tavini** OUR CANDIDATE

Makara Murare – Mitiaro



TBC



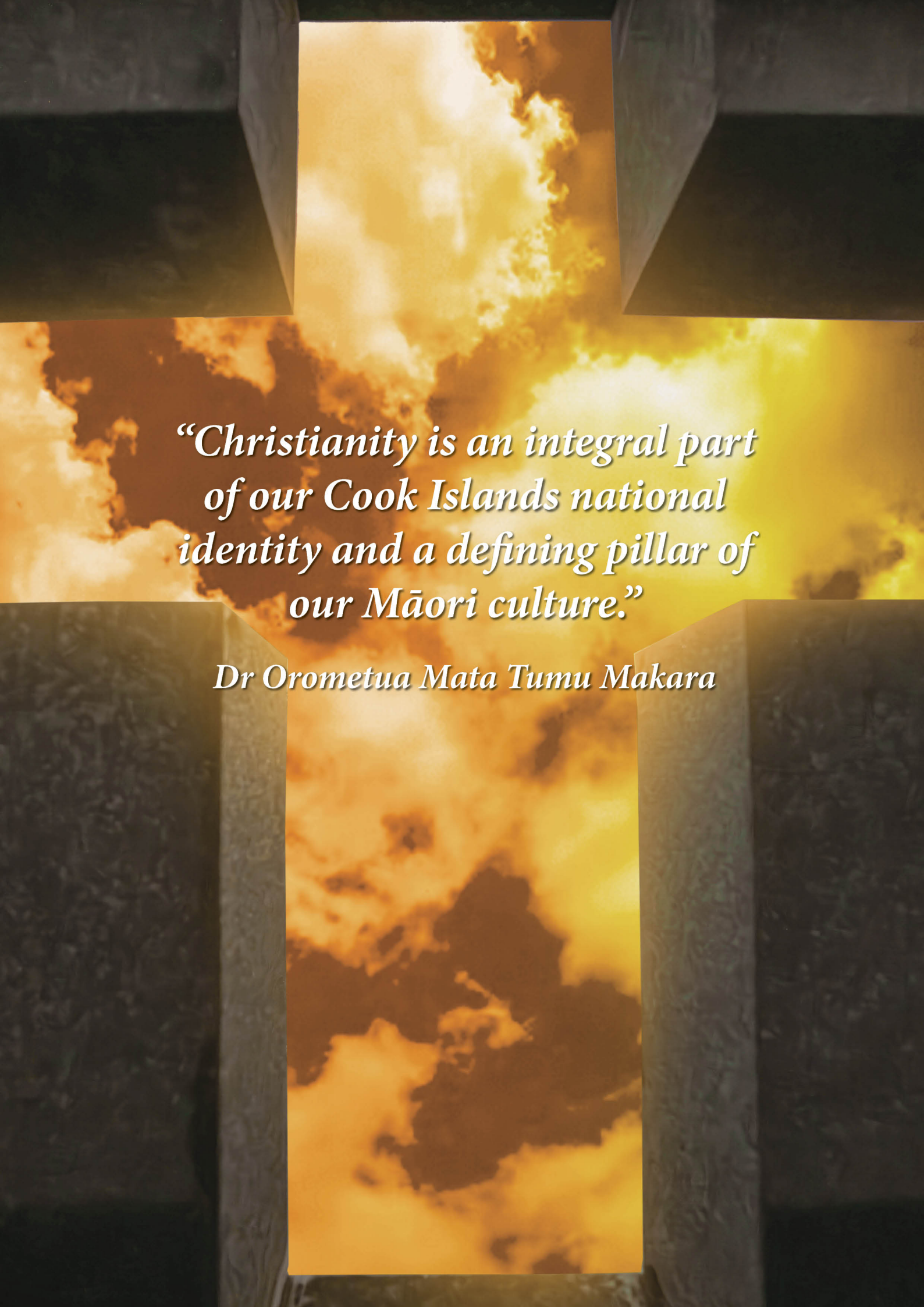
He

A tainted heart
That's been wounded by a million darts

His scary sores
Has he been to war?
He ponders on the end
Of the white sandy shores
Cradles his arms
He shares no remorse

He's been through a lot more
Most like raging storms
He lives in distraught
A fighter who shares no remorse
Because his own
Left him to be torn
By the million darts
That he fought on his own

Dedicated to Teariki William Kati Heather



*“Christianity is an integral part
of our Cook Islands national
identity and a defining pillar of
our Māori culture.”*

Dr Orometua Mata Tumu Makara