



# TEKAREOREORA

Business Trade Investment Board— January



Kia Orana and Happy New Year,

The BTIB kick started the year 2019 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Although a few of our staff were still enjoying their much deserved holiday, we were able to open the office and get straight into work and plans for the rest of the calendar year.

At this stage BTIB is looking to hold yet another busy and eventful year that we hope will bring prosperity to the Cook Islands and our People.

We look forward to working with our communities and you all in this new year.

Kia Orana and Kia Manuia,



## Board Dates:

January 31st 2019

February 28th 2019

April 25th 2019

May 30th 2019

June 27th 2019

July 25th 2019

Business Trade Investment Board  
**Cook Islands**  
 How to invest in the Cook Islands  
 How to start up a business  
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1997 - Investment Act Passed | 1995 - Development Investment Act Passed | 2003 - Investment Code adopted

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## ***Business Development Client: Liam Kokaua***

Liam Kokaua, 28, is an aspiring planter from Nikao. He works in environmental conservation and believes that planting our own food rather than relying on imported produce is one of the key aspects of sustainability on a small island. He also believes it can also provide a good side income for those who already have full-time jobs.

Liam applied to BTIB for a Soft Loan which assisted in covering fencing materials, a lawnmower, and fruit trees from the Ministry of Agriculture. “I currently have over 50 fruit trees on my planting section, which include Lychees, Kaika, Lemons, Limes, Mandarins, Oranges, Mangoes, and even Feijoa trees. The fencing is now keeping the pigs, dogs, and chickens out, which were always a problem, and the side thrower is good at keeping the grass maintained as it was a pretty rough section of land to begin with”. He knows that he will not be receiving income from these trees for a while “All these trees will take at least 2 more years until they fruit, so in the meantime I have been planting vegetables to keep an income coming in and to help pay off my small loan”. Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Corn, Capsicums, and Bok Choy are some of what he is currently planting in the short term.

Liam thanks BTIB for supporting his loan application, he is proud to be a part of a small group of young planters on Rarotonga, as well as doing his part for the sustainability of our island. One day he would consider taking a larger loan from BTIB to purchase a rotary, but that’s an idea for the future.

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Kia Orana and Happy New Year from the Trade & Marketing division. Upcoming events to look forward to in the coming months for **2019**, Dates to be confirmed as time gets closer for more information please contact [mona.taio@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:mona.taio@cookislands.gov.ck)

## Investment Promotion and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) 17 – 21 December 2018 Singapore.

In December 2018 Foreign Investment Manager Ria Arthur travelled to Singapore, to participate in the Singapore Cooperation Programme. The course was based on Investment Promotion and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The course covered topics on fundamentals of trade and investment promotion strategies for developing countries; learning the role of economic agencies to develop policies to promote trade, manufacturing, private sector development and investment with sustainable development goals; learning about the negotiation process for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and understand the trade facilitation process and single window initiatives to transform the economy into a paperless country.

There were 24 participants' from developing countries reaching from West Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and the South Pacific. The Cook Islands was the only pacific nation who participated in the programme this year. The programme was delivered face to face by two of Singapore Cooperation's facilitators Ms Maler Ratnam and Dr Charles Chow. Both are experts in the fields of Trade, Foreign Investment Promotion, FTAs and Business Development. They shared some of their experiences working in the public sector in Singapore, policies they helped launch and trade agreements they negotiated for the betterment of the country.

Singapore known as the city in the Garden, is a city you must visit. Forward thinking a lot of planning has brought this farming city to the smart-green city it is today. Take away from the course a country must have clear investment focus, always a win-win in partnerships (local and foreign), look at tripartite relations (Government, Employers, Employees working together), ease of doing business and lastly a country needs to remain relevant and resilient.

EVENTS 2019
February—Ukarere Festival
March– Pasifika festival Auckand, NZ
April– Keeping it Green Night Market
June– Prime foods Night market
July– Takurua Food Festival
August– BCI Trade days

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