

## NZ Maori doctor guest speaker at Red Cross gala

A NEW Zealand Maori doctor who was nominated New Zealander of the Year in 2014, will be the guest speaker at this year's Cook Islands Red Cross Gala.

Dr Lance O'Sullivan came to prominence in New Zealand because of his work in the far north of the North Island, treating patients in the socio-economically depressed area

around Kaitiaki. Not only has he been a strong advocate for his patients, but he has treated them for little or no cost.

In 2015 the O'Sullivan family was devastated when their youngest child, Lance junior, was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, a degenerative disease which will soon see him confined to a wheelchair. He is unlikely to live past the age

of 21.

The Red Cross Gala will be held on Saturday May 12, four days after International Red Cross/Red Crescent Day. It's celebrated world wide on May 8, the birthday of Henry Dunant the founder of Red Cross who was born nearly 180 years ago. He was also the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr O'Sullivan is an inspira-

## Lagoon weed prompts ideas from readers

PHOTOS published by CI News recently showed what appeared to be the return of the algae bloom that has plagued Rarotonga's lagoon over the last few years.

It is believed the seaweed that has washed ashore at Muri is turbinaria and boodlea and commentators said it was not uncommon to see seaweed grow in the lagoon during summer as a result of the warm temperatures and higher rainfall.

Through the CI News Facebook page, we asked readers what suggestions they had to keep our lagoon clean and pristine, while work on a long term project to clean up the lagoons on both Rarotonga and Aitutaki continue.

Kim Sprafka compared the situation to the algae blooms in California, which were said to

tional but modest and down-to-earth speaker.

His experience practicing medicine in Northland in New Zealand has many parallels with the Cook Islands. Many of his patients suffer from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes.

His work in New Zealand has attracted considerable support with generous donors helping him set up the Moko Foundation to further his work; which includes carrying out research to find better ways of solving the health problems of Maori

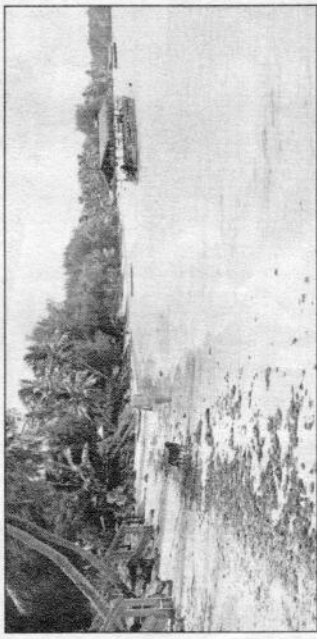
he had planned to take two young people to present to the forum with him.

But after receiving more than 300 applicants for the two positions, and in acknowledging the very high quality of the applicants he changed his mind and is now taking 12 young people instead of just two.

The Moko Foundation's innovative work in developing 'digital health' models is what has caught the attention of the UN, and can equally apply here.

■ JMCK

In keeping with his determination to foster future leaders



The sight of more weed on the beach at Muri has prompted CI News readers to suggest some solutions. 18/03/2018

Trevor Hughes said that the problem had been ignored for too long.

"Act now before you lose your tourism industry."

Karl Jackson said the solution was simple: "stop the nutrient flow from inland and the weed won't grow." However, Bruce Jenn Smith praised local businesses in Muiri for cleaning up the beach near their facilities.

"Kitesup and Koka were out cleaning from Sails back up to Koka. Maybe some of the others in the area should follow their example."

■ Jaimie Key

# SEAFOOD BUFFET

with Live Entertainment every Tuesday night  
ph 23953 to book  
only \$55 pp



Crown Beach  
RESORT & SPA  
RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS