



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

*Caring for our Environment
Taporoporo i to tatou Ao Rangi*

***Kia Orana e te katoatoa. Teia te nuti no
Āperirā 2021.***

***We are excited to welcome our new project
officer, Terena Koteka-Wiki. Read on to learn
more!***

Mauke - Taau Taku Tita



Have you seen our latest advert on Cook Islands Television starring sporting students from Apii Mauke? You can watch it on our You Tube channel [here](#). Made possible by funding from the US Consulate in NZ we have been creating a range of environmentally focussed adverts over the past 6 months and have more in the pipeline.

Atiu glass crusher in action at school

Apīi Enuamanu is making great use of their glass crusher. This is helping manage the school waste as well as glass delivered in by the wider community.



Principal Syaka Talangi-Tairi who is championing sustainability in the school says they were fortunate to source the glass crusher thanks to a NZ High Commission grant several years ago.

One third of the material used to construct a large concrete slab at the school, came from crushing 1300 bottles, and plans are afoot for more glass based construction at the school.

The glass crushing initiative started as a Year 7 student led project proposal which was presented at the Ministry of Education (MOE) Student Conference in Rarotonga 2019.

MOE organiser, Jane Tauarii said the students were encouraged to design projects with sustainability in mind and therefore the ongoing viability of the project was an important factor.

Glass crushers are available locally through Te IpuKarea Society member, Timberland.

Liam Koka'ua home for a visit

Liam, a former Te Ipukarea Society project officer, popped into the office to say hello while on a recent visit back home.

Liam did a great job while working with us for 4 years. The variety of work provided great hands-on experience for him in the environment field, and he was fortunate to also work in a number of the pa enua.

He left Rarotonga in 2019 to pursue a Masters degree in Indigenous Studies, after which he took up a position with Gisborne Council managing a large scale ecological restoration project. It was great to see him again!



Natura e te Moana e Atiu

Te Ipukarea Society's 'Eyes through the Lens of Youth' project has now extended to Atiu and soon, thanks to support from the US Consulate in NZ.

19 students from Apii Enuamanu in Atiu jumped in the back of trucks, armed with cameras and heads filled with ideas on how to best capture images of what the environment means to them.



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The students were asked to contemplate and capture the beautiful aspects of environment such as the birds, forest and beaches but also to consider the not so pretty side of human impact such as waste, invasive species and marine pollution.

Berlina George took this beautiful shot in the Moko'era Nui Reserve. Berlina explains *"In this photo I can see two trees connecting with each other and supporting one another. We may see it as a tunnel or a tree bridge, but I see it as two particular things being connected to each other and surrounded by small trees of life"*.



Berlina George's photo in the Moko'era Nui Reserve.

Then it was all action down at the wharf where schools of ature fish were being plucked from nets by delighted Atiu locals of all ages. It made for some great photos and a lot of laughs!





Grace Teremoana's photo of a true 'Paruru te enua. Paruru te moana'.

Maine Mura in Atiu

This month in Atiu we ran two community meetings and gave a school presentation on our Maine Mura project which promotes reusable menstruation products.

Women young and not so young were keen to try the products and we were able to distribute a large number of reusable menstruation pads, plus we have a large backorder of moon cups.



Meitaki ma'ata to UN Women for the funds to promote and provide these zero waste products, free of charge.

TIS Welcomes Terena

We are excited to welcome our new project officer Terena Koteka-Wiki, to help with our environmental campaigns.

Here Terena shares a little about herself and the journey that led her to where she is today.



Kia Orana koutou katoatoa,

I am youngest daughter of Emm Koteka-Wiki of (Nga-Pu-Toru, Mangaia, Manihiki and Aitutaki) and Paepae Wiki (Te Aupouri) NZ Maori descent.

Born in New Zealand, I recently returned home to Rarotonga from the USA. I wanted to expand my knowledge and experiences, share what I have learned, but more importantly, reconnect with my heritage.

My upbringing has meant I have been fortunate to experience diverse cultures, environments and situations. I have lived in Croatia, Israel and Kenya and was lucky to also spend time in Rarotonga as a child and attend Takitumu and Apii Te Uki Ou Primary Schools.

From 2005 I went to school in Westport (Connecticut, USA). It was during this time that I

connected with a number of Non-Profit Organisations, including Builders Beyond Borders (B3) program, which took me to Guyana, as well as the People to People International Student Travel program where I travelled as a Youth Ambassador to Australia.

In 2015 I commenced my studies at Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. My final major research paper investigated the environmental impacts of deep seabed mining.

While at HPU, I got involved with the Sierra Club of Hawaii, an environmental organization based in the U.S.A with a focus in preserving the world's natural resources. During an internship with the Marine Mammal Stranding Program, I was involved in the reporting and analysis of stranded spinner dolphins and whales.

I am humbled by this opportunity to work for Te Ipukarea Society and I look forward to learning and expanding my knowledge, as well as immersing myself into community work, particularly with our youth.

The full article can be found [here](#).

Volunteer Shout Out to Carina!



Carina is on the far right in blue with Apii Nikao students

Meitaki ranuinui to TIS member Carina Wentzel from Adventure Cook Islands for volunteering to assist us on a morning reef walk out with the 4 and 5 year olds from Apii Nikao.

Carina was able to spot some of the more cryptic species and shared her knowledge of the marine creatures. Exciting observations were made of vivid-blue starfish, trochus and sea cucumbers.



This field trip with Apii Nikao followed a marine pollution presentation Alanna did with the same students earlier this month about the importance of reusable water bottles to reduce single-use plastics that can enter our precious oceans and streams.

Aitutaki Exhibition



We had a great turnout at the April 15th launch of Aitutaki's youth photography expo evening at Tamanu Beach Resort. Some of the students

have even received offers to purchase their prints!

Meitaki atupaka to Aitutaki Youth with a Vision for participating in the program. To Reg Potini of Blondies Photography for upskilling our youth, and to Tamanu Beach Resort for your continued support of the work Te Ipukarea Society do.

And of course to the US Embassy in New Zealand supporting what has been a fun 'learning by doing' environmental exercise.

Mothers Day Gifts

We have a small selection of gorgeous O Te Motu raukura earrings, made from recycled bicycle inner tubes, which would make lovely Mothers Day gifts.



Come in to check them out, they come in a range of sizes and prices from \$25-\$45. 100% of the proceeds go towards our work in waste reduction awareness.

We also have 100% organic Mauke Magic pure vanilla essence available for \$14.

Memberships are due

Memberships for 2021 – 2022 are now due. If you would like to renew your membership or perhaps join for the first time, we would love to have you be a part of our organisation and get involved!

It is a \$20 annual fee for individuals and \$50 for a family, plus we have \$5 student concessions. We have options for corporate supporters too.

Details for joining are found on our [webpage](#), including information on joining from overseas. Or you can come into the office or pay via internet banking to our BCI & BSP accounts below:

Te Ipukarea Society

BCI 82853-S15 or BSP 2000325007

Remember you're always welcome to come and pop in to TIS office between Bamboo Jacks and Rarotonga Printing for a chat about getting involved with our Society.

Meitaki e kia manuia from all of us at Te Ipukarea Society.

MEITAKI

to our generous supporters

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